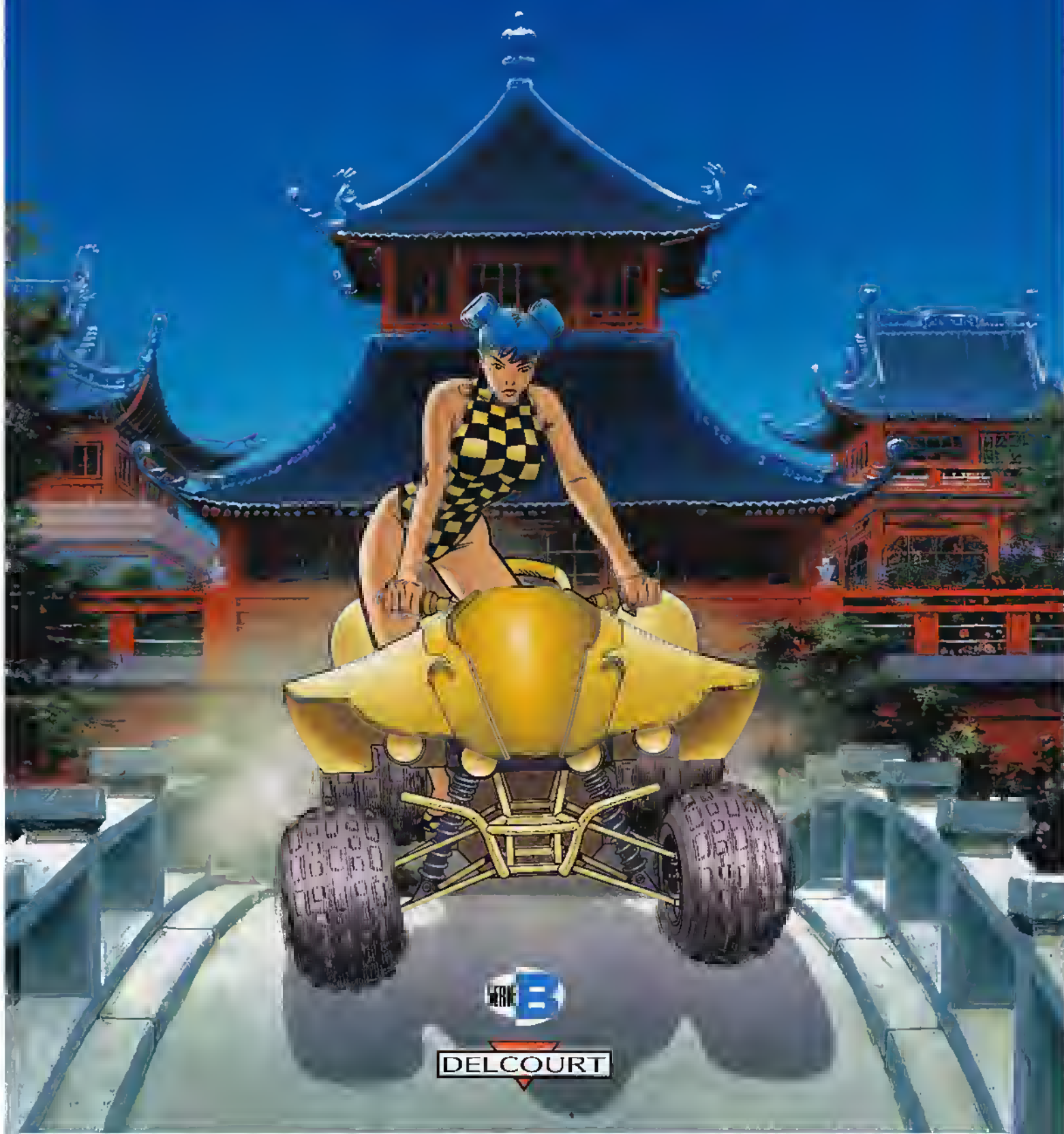


PECQUEUR • HENRIET • USAGI

Golden Cup

5 • KISS OF THE DRAGON



Golden Cup

5 • KISS OF THE DRAGON



TEXT

DANIEL PECQUEUR

ART

ALAIN HENRIET

COLORS

USAGI

COVER DESIGN

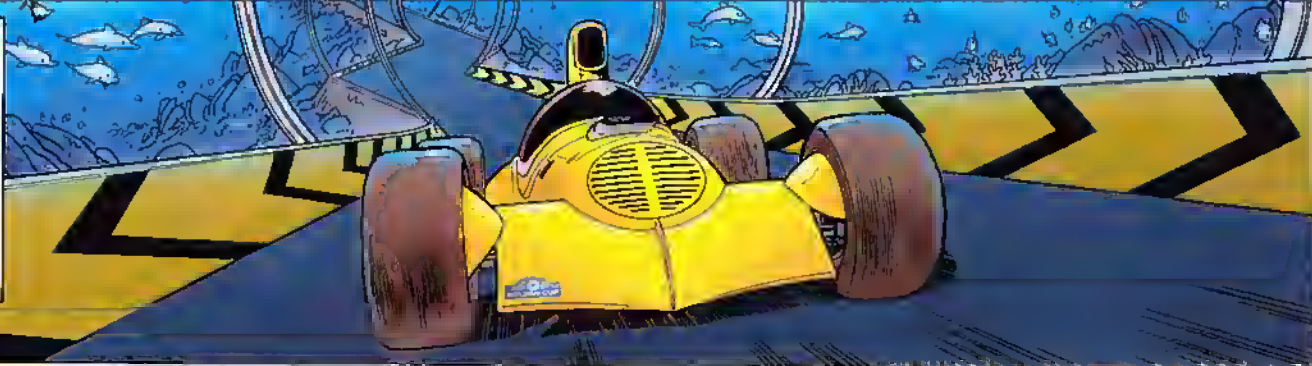
ALAIN HENRIET & MANCHU

SCANLATION

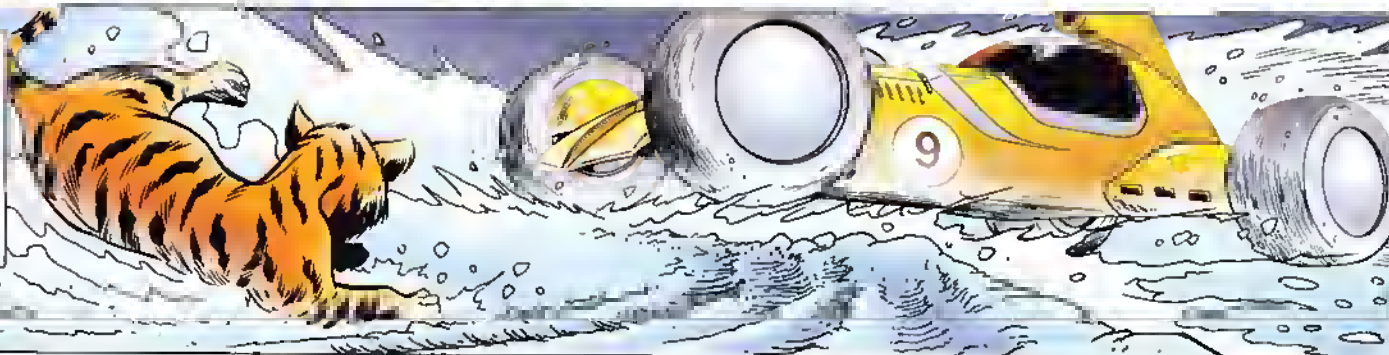
ALICE



DRIVING VICTORIA,
A CAR DESIGNED BY
AN EX-FORMULA 1
MECHANIC,
DAYTONA WON THE
OPENING STAGE OF
THE GOLDEN CUP...

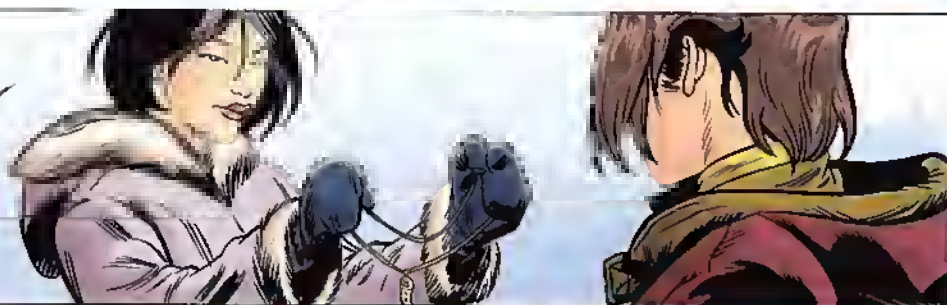


BUT A
SERIOUS
ACCIDENT IN
SIBERIA
ALMOST
FORCED HIM
TO ABANDON
THE RACE.

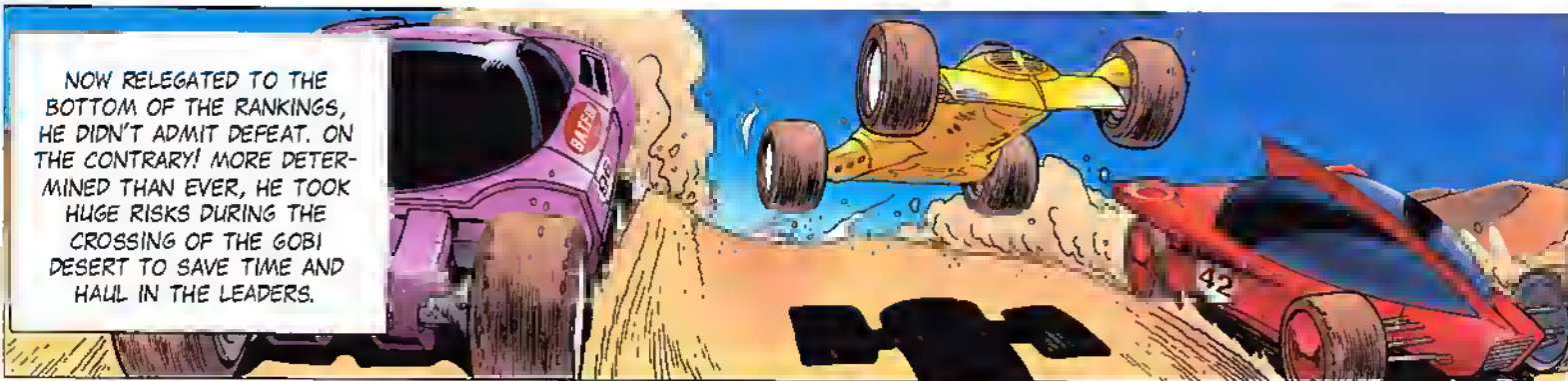


HOWEVER, HE WAS
RESCUED BY THE
LOVELY DOUDINKA
AND WAS ABLE TO
CONTINUE.

THIS IS FOR YOU
TO WEAR. IT'S A NENET
TALISMAN TO KEEP YOU
SAFE UNTIL THE END OF
THE GOLDEN CUP.

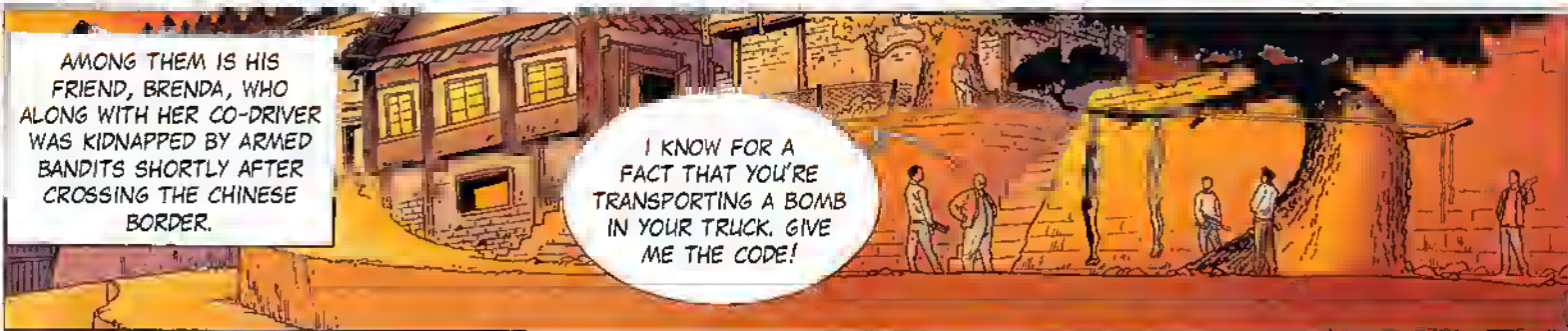


NOW RELEGATED TO THE
BOTTOM OF THE RANKINGS,
HE DIDN'T ADMIT DEFEAT.
ON THE CONTRARY! MORE DETER-
MINED THAN EVER, HE TOOK
HUGE RISKS DURING THE
CROSSING OF THE GOBI
DESERT TO SAVE TIME AND
HAUL IN THE LEADERS.



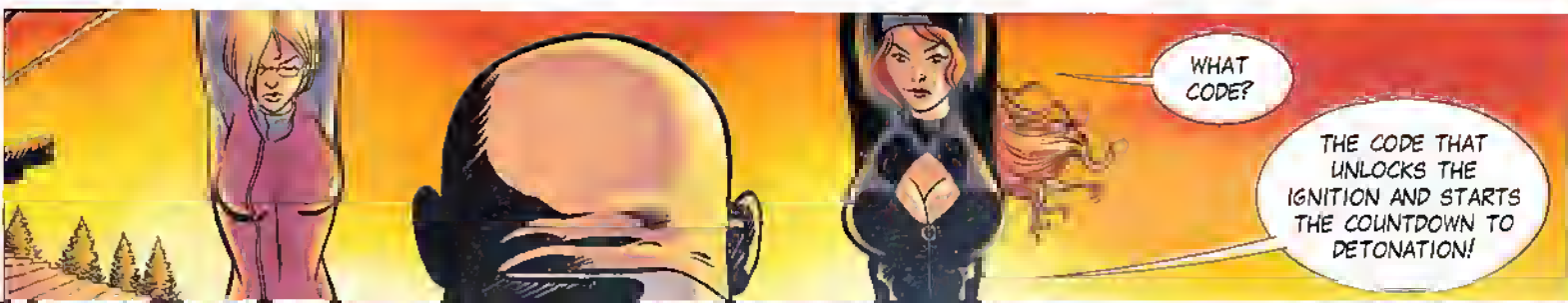
AMONG THEM IS HIS
FRIEND, BRENDA, WHO
ALONG WITH HER CO-DRIVER
WAS KIDNAPPED BY ARMED
BANDITS SHORTLY AFTER
CROSSING THE CHINESE
BORDER.

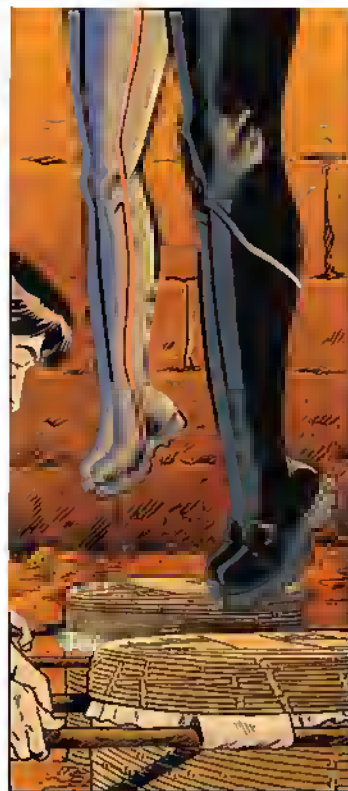
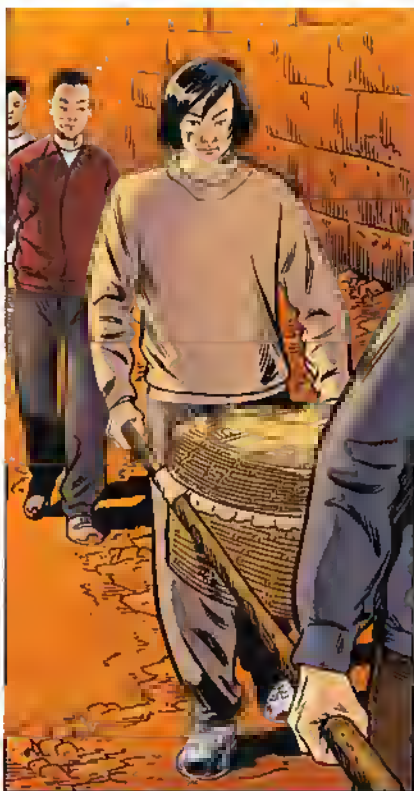
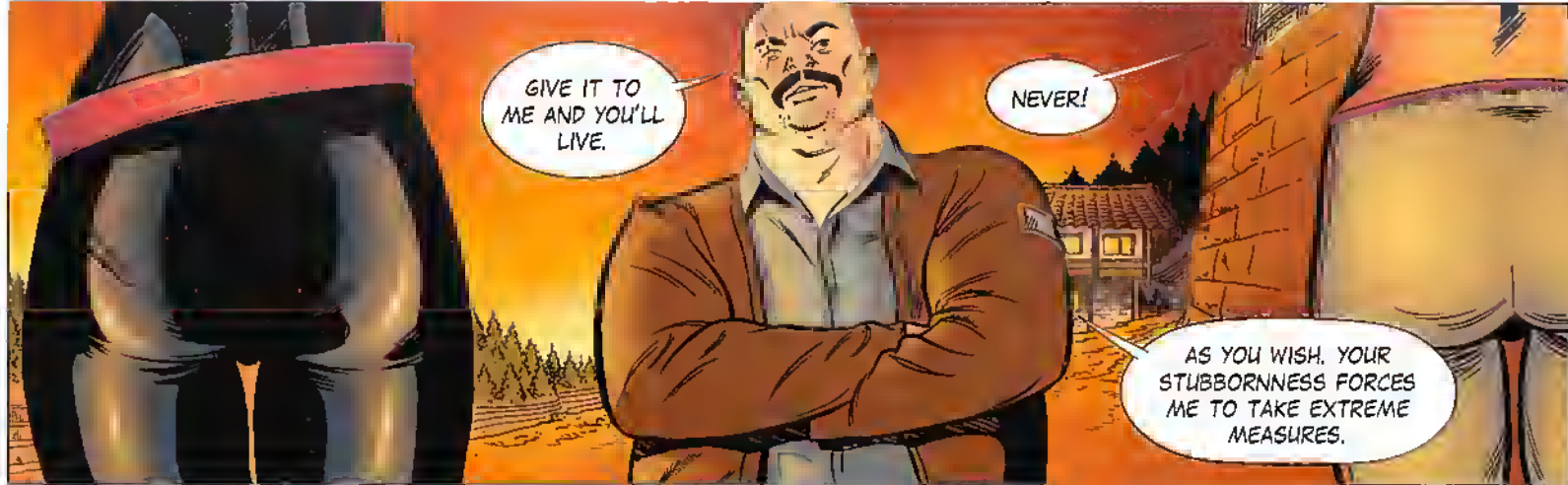
I KNOW FOR A
FACT THAT YOU'RE
TRANSPORTING A BOMB
IN YOUR TRUCK. GIVE
ME THE CODE!



WHAT
CODE?

THE CODE THAT
UNLOCKS THE
IGNITION AND STARTS
THE COUNTDOWN TO
DETONATION!





IF YOU GIVE THEM THE
CODE THEY'LL KILL US.
IT'S ALL THEY NEED US
FOR. IF YOU HOPE TO
SURVIVE, SHUT UP!

NO!
I BEG YOU!

I HATE
SNAKES!

STOP! I...
I'LL GIVE YOU
THE CODE!

AAAHHH!

3412
BXUV
16!

PAW!

GOOD, NOW
LET'S GET TO
WORK. LOAD THE
TRUCK ON THE
HELICOPTER.

AND
THEM?

SHOULD WE
KILL THEM?

NOT YET.
TAKE THEM TO
BEIJING.

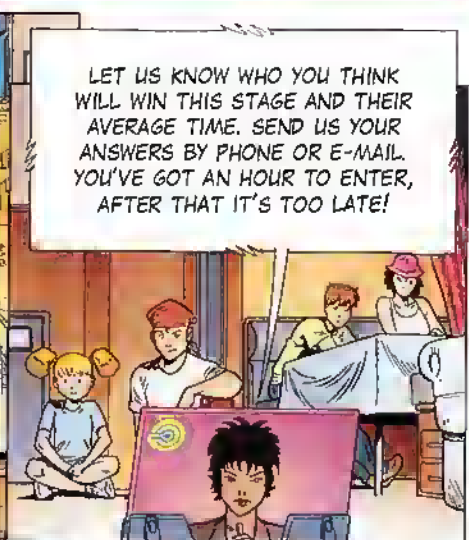
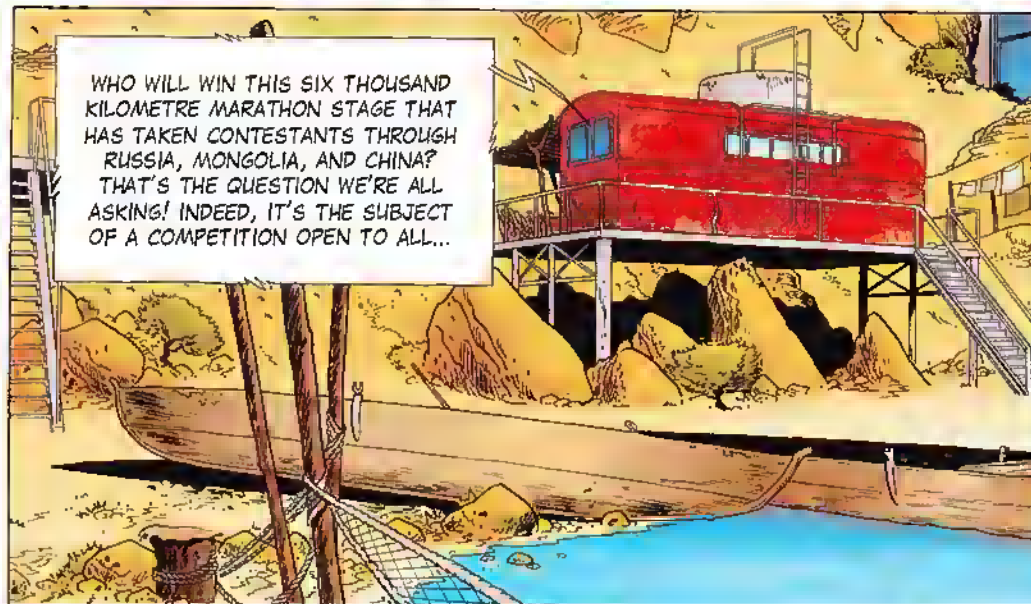
WELCOME TO BEIJING AND TIANANMEN SQUARE, WHERE THE SURVIVORS OF THE GOLDEN CUP WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW MORNING!

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S AN ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERE IN THE SQUARE. THE MECHANICS FROM THE VARIOUS TEAMS ARE HASTILY UNLOADING SEMI-TRAILERS THAT WERE DISPATCHED BY AIR FROM SIBERIA.



WHO WILL WIN THIS SIX THOUSAND KILOMETRE MARATHON STAGE THAT HAS TAKEN CONTESTANTS THROUGH RUSSIA, MONGOLIA, AND CHINA? THAT'S THE QUESTION WE'RE ALL ASKING! INDEED, IT'S THE SUBJECT OF A COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL...

LET US KNOW WHO YOU THINK WILL WIN THIS STAGE AND THEIR AVERAGE TIME. SEND US YOUR ANSWERS BY PHONE OR E-MAIL. YOU'VE GOT AN HOUR TO ENTER, AFTER THAT IT'S TOO LATE!



THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A CHECK FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A TRIP TO GOLDEN CITY NEXT MONTH TO WATCH THE FINISH OF THE GOLDEN CUP LIVE! GOOD LUCK TO ALL, AND SEE YOU SOON!

WHO KNOWS? WE SHOULD ASK TAMARA! SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE IN HER CRYSTAL BALL!

AREN'T YOU COMING, CARLOTTA?

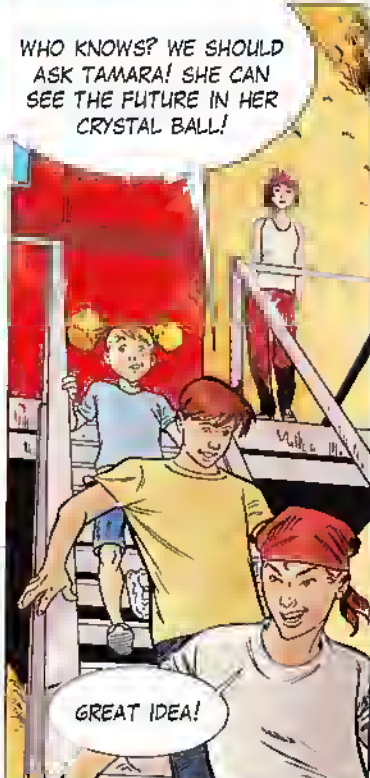
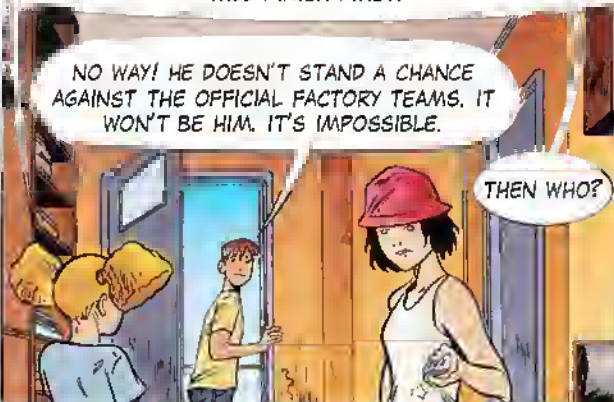
NAH, TAMARA IS A FRAUD. WHEN MY FATHER LEFT SHE TOLD MY MOTHER HE'D BE BACK IN A MONTH. IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS AND HE'S NOT BACK YET.

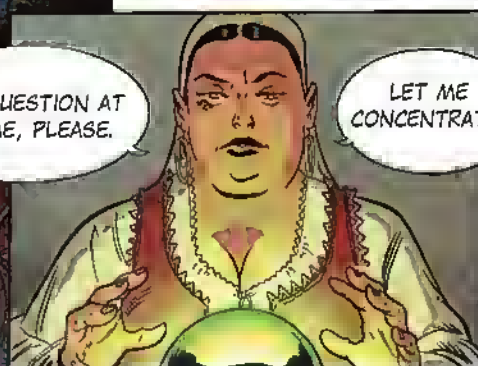
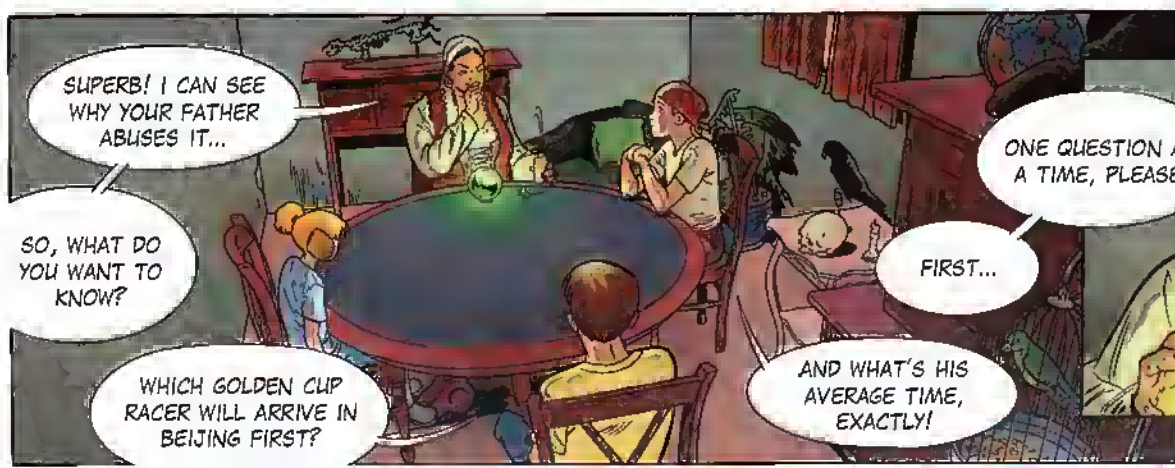
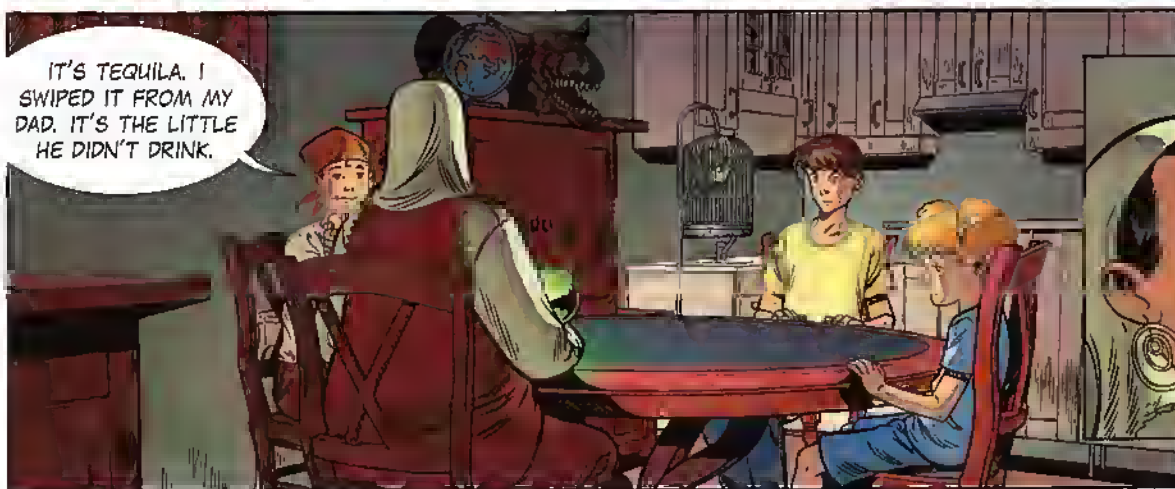
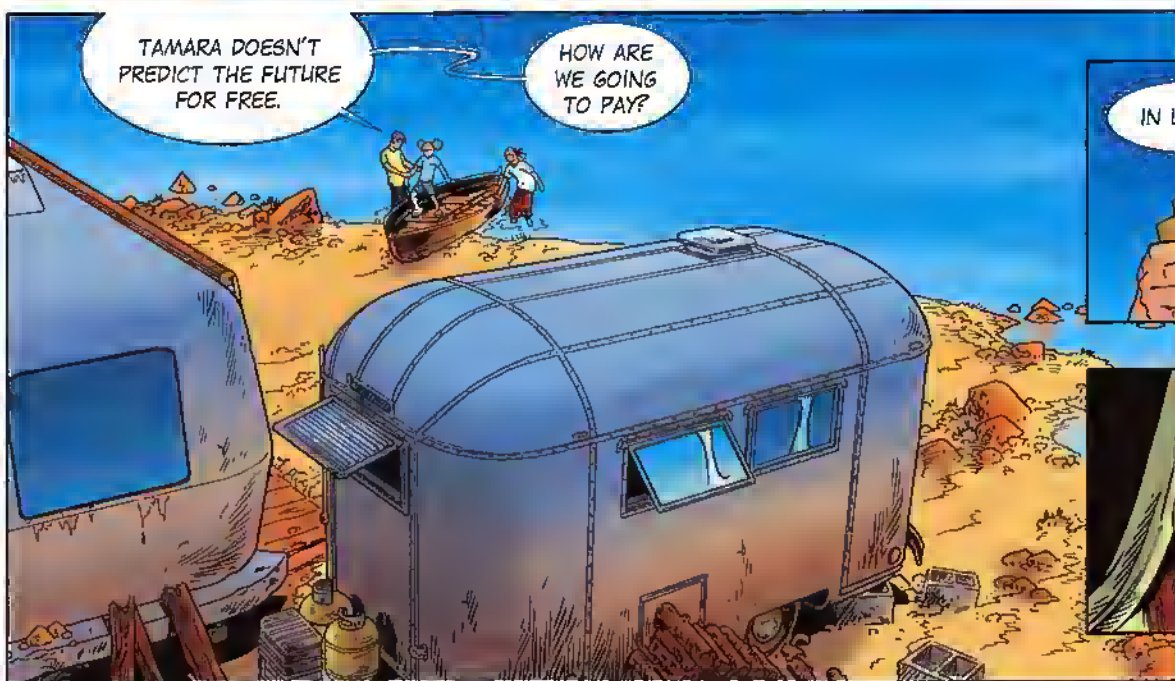
WE SHOULD ENTER THE CONTEST! I BET DAYTONA WILL FINISH FIRST!

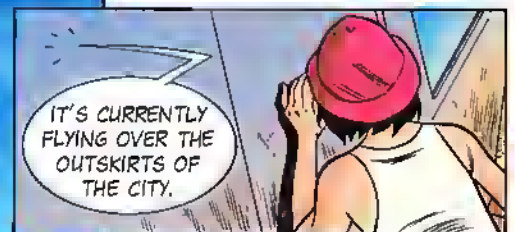
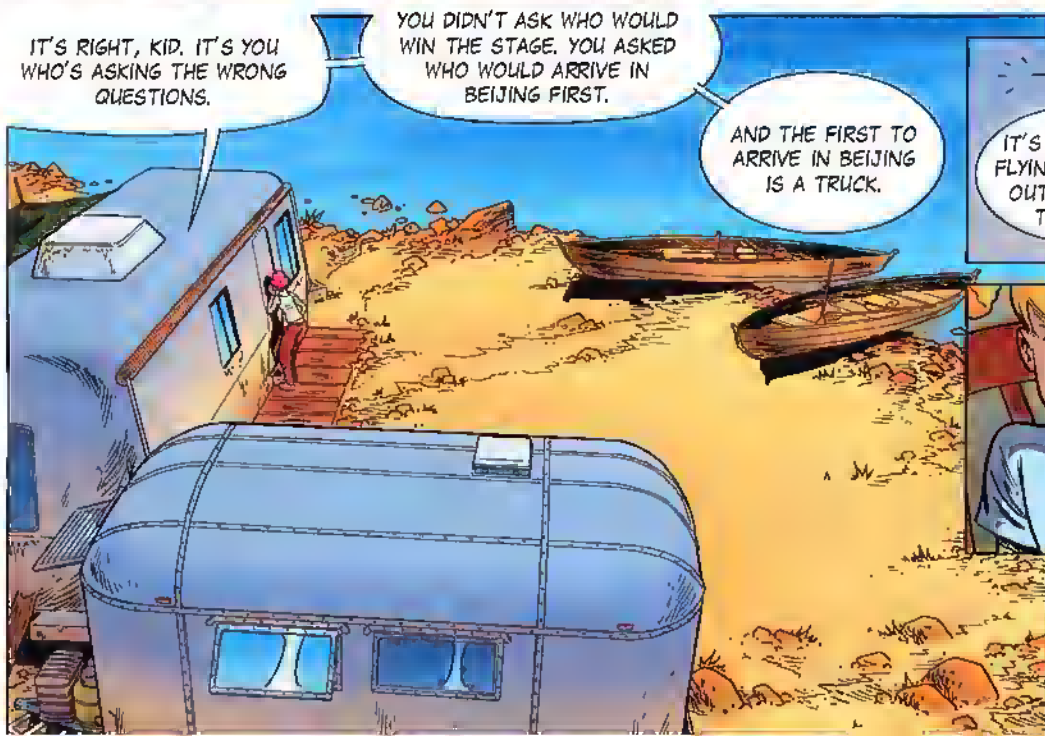
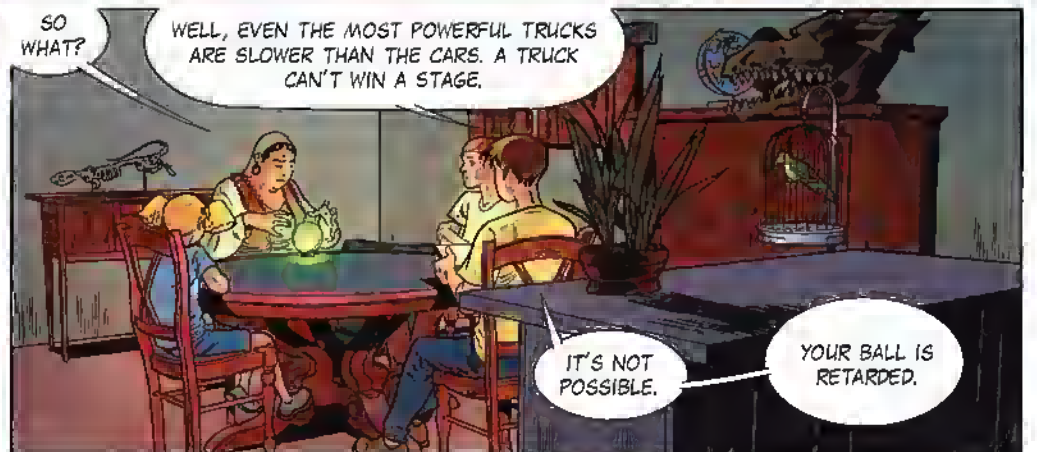
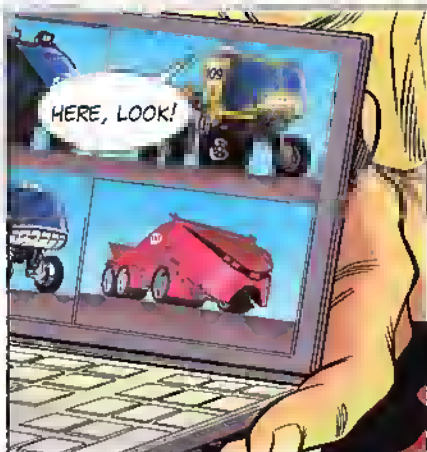
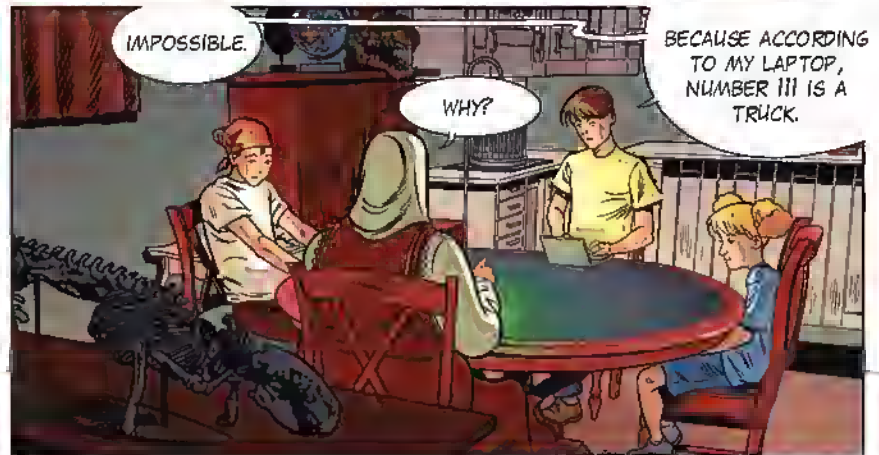
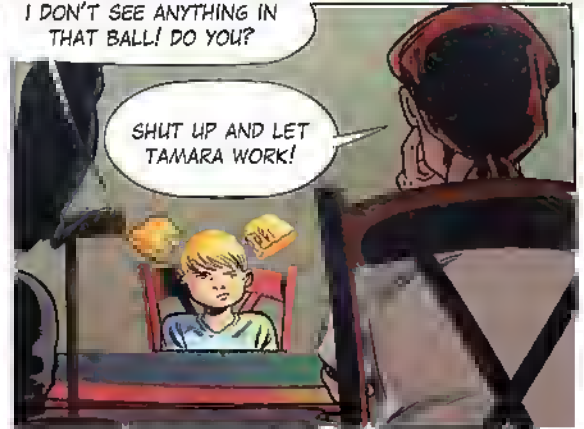
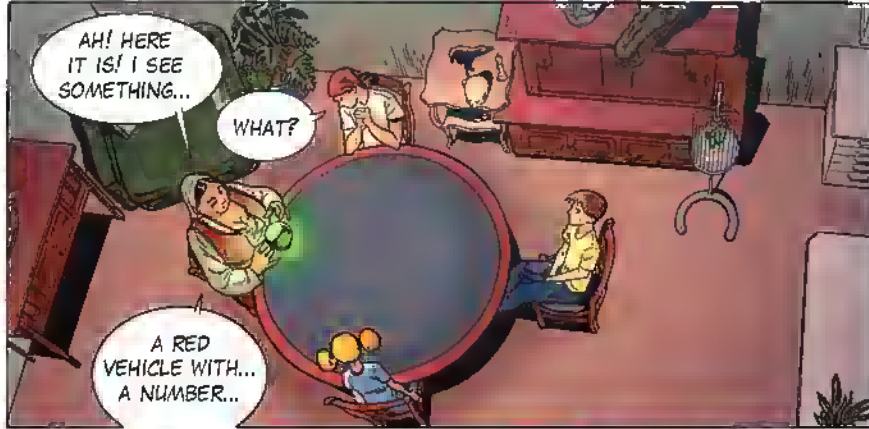
NO WAY! HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE OFFICIAL FACTORY TEAMS. IT WON'T BE HIM. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

THEN WHO?

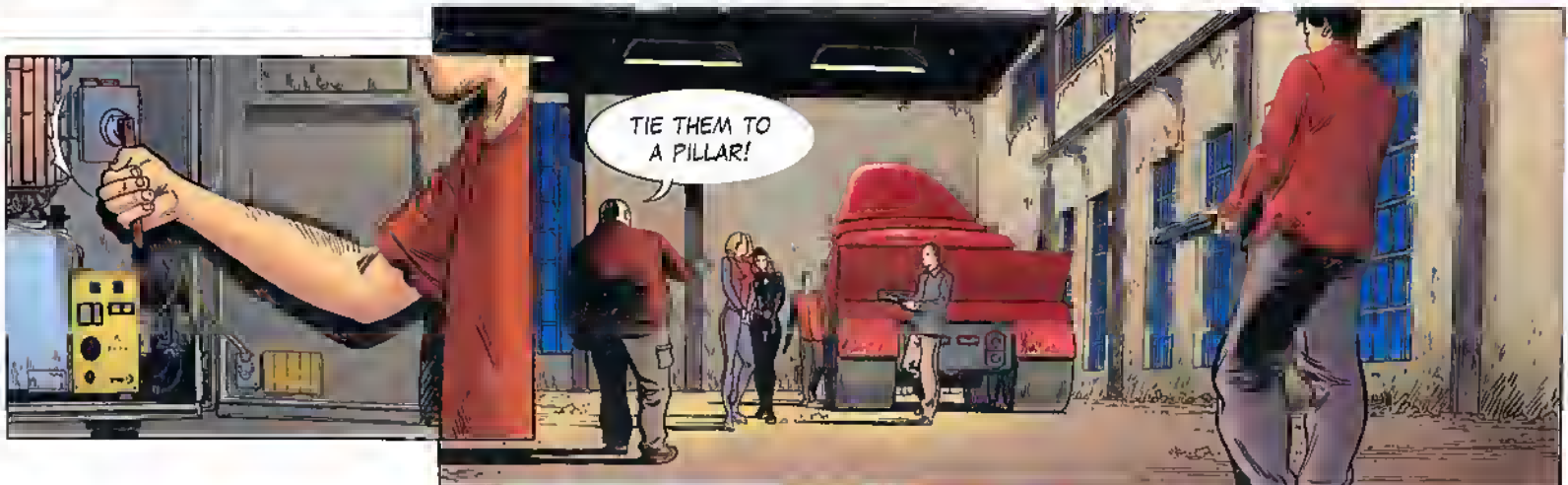
GREAT IDEA!

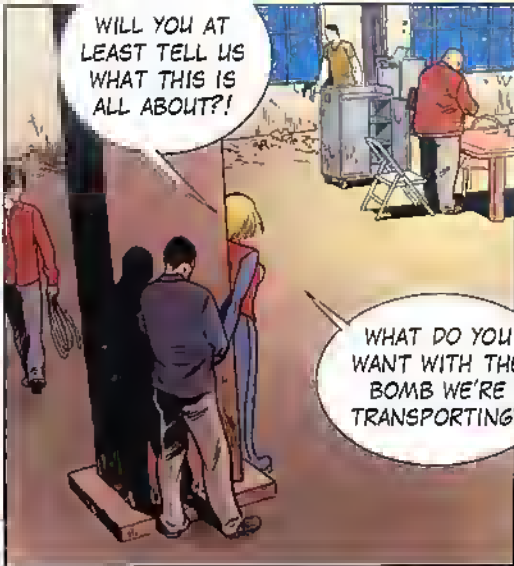






UNLESS IT'S INSIDE A
HELICOPTER, WHICH
IS THE CASE HERE.





WILL YOU AT LEAST TELL US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?!

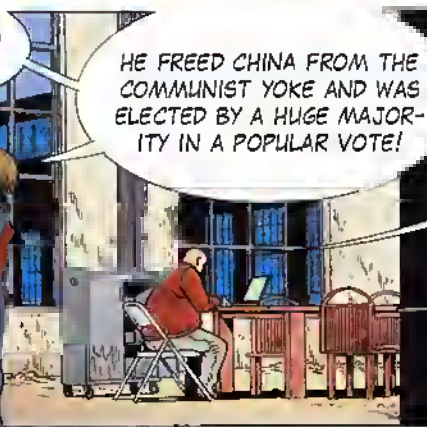
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THE BOMB WE'RE TRANSPORTING?



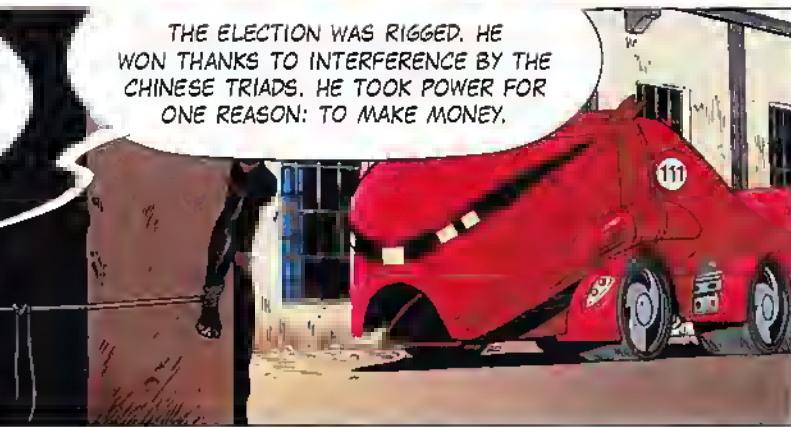
TO KILL TAI MO SHAN.



THE PRESIDENT?! WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?



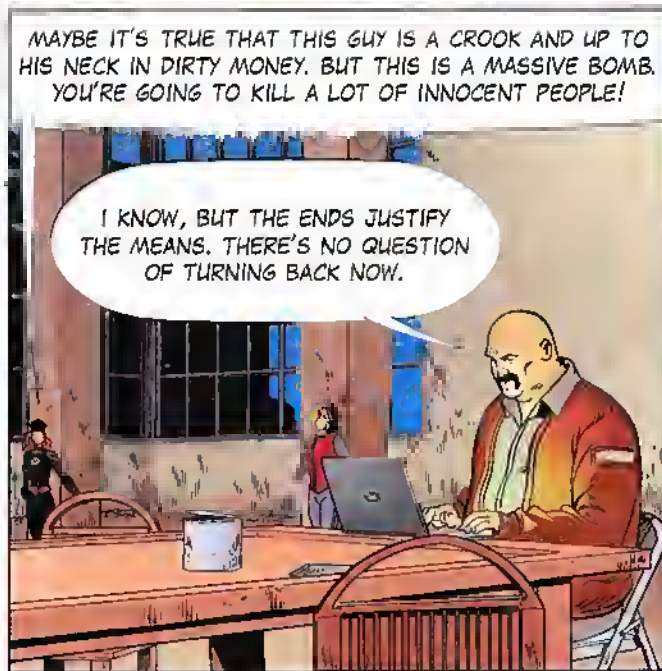
HE FREED CHINA FROM THE COMMUNIST YOKE AND WAS ELECTED BY A HUGE MAJORITY IN A POPULAR VOTE!



THE ELECTION WAS RIGGED. HE WON THANKS TO INTERFERENCE BY THE CHINESE TRIADS. HE TOOK POWER FOR ONE REASON: TO MAKE MONEY.

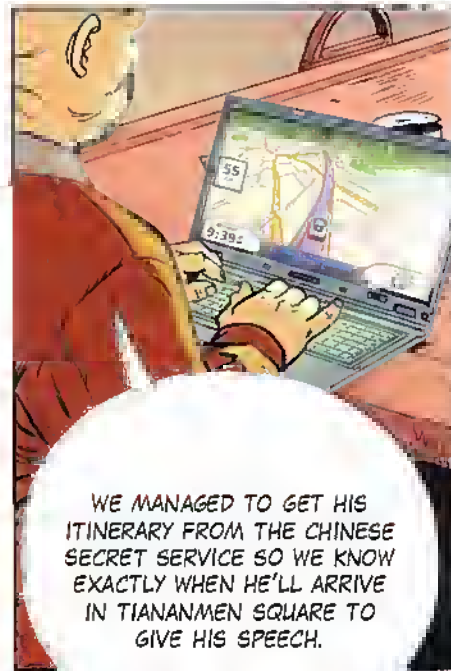


SINCE THE ELECTION HE AND HIS TRIAD FRIENDS HAVE PLUNDERED OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES. TODAY THEY OWN PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING. AND THE PEOPLE? THEY'RE STARVING...

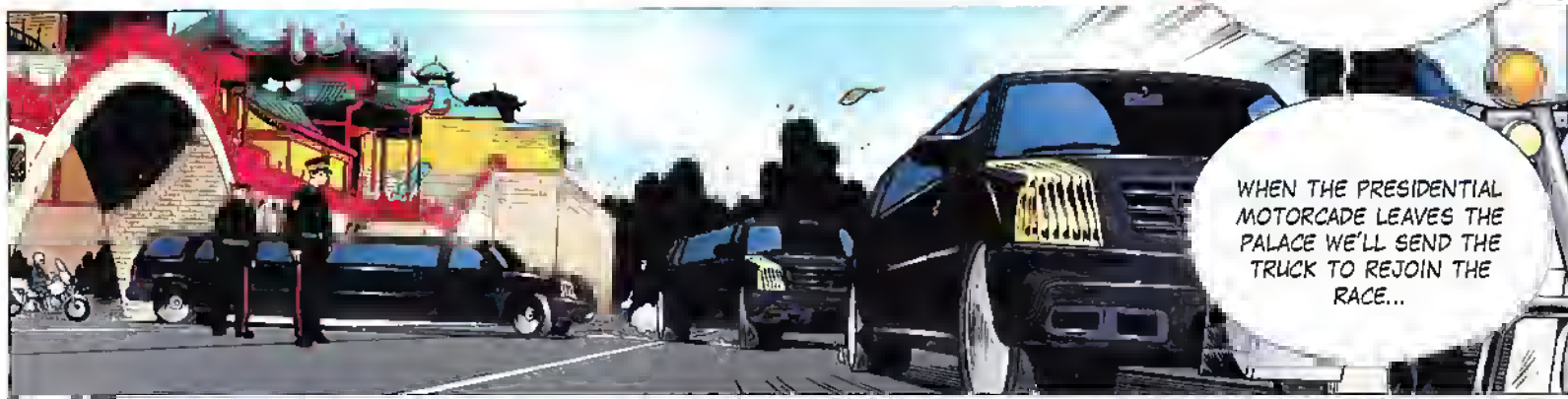


MAYBE IT'S TRUE THAT THIS GUY IS A CROOK AND UP TO HIS NECK IN DIRTY MONEY. BUT THIS IS A MASSIVE BOMB. YOU'RE GOING TO KILL A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!

I KNOW, BUT THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS. THERE'S NO QUESTION OF TURNING BACK NOW.



WE MANAGED TO GET HIS ITINERARY FROM THE CHINESE SECRET SERVICE SO WE KNOW EXACTLY WHEN HE'LL ARRIVE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE TO GIVE HIS SPEECH.



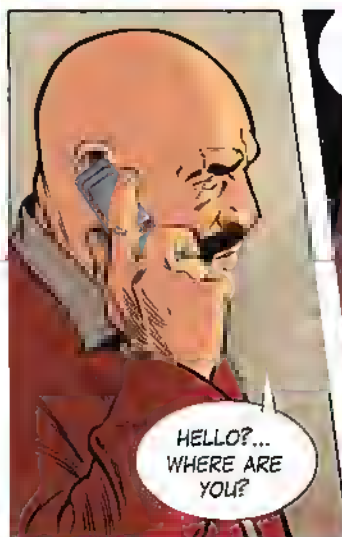
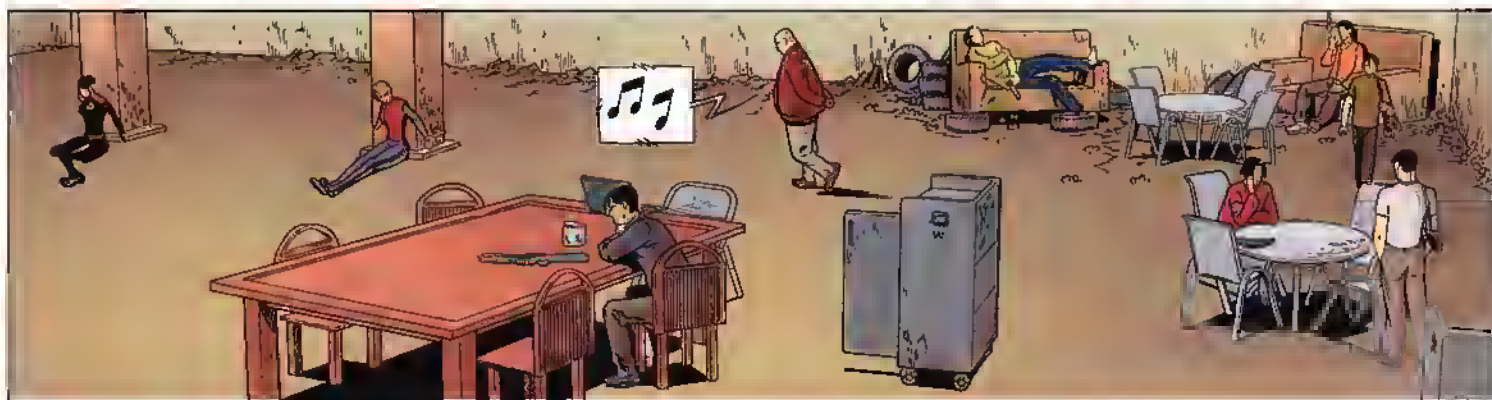
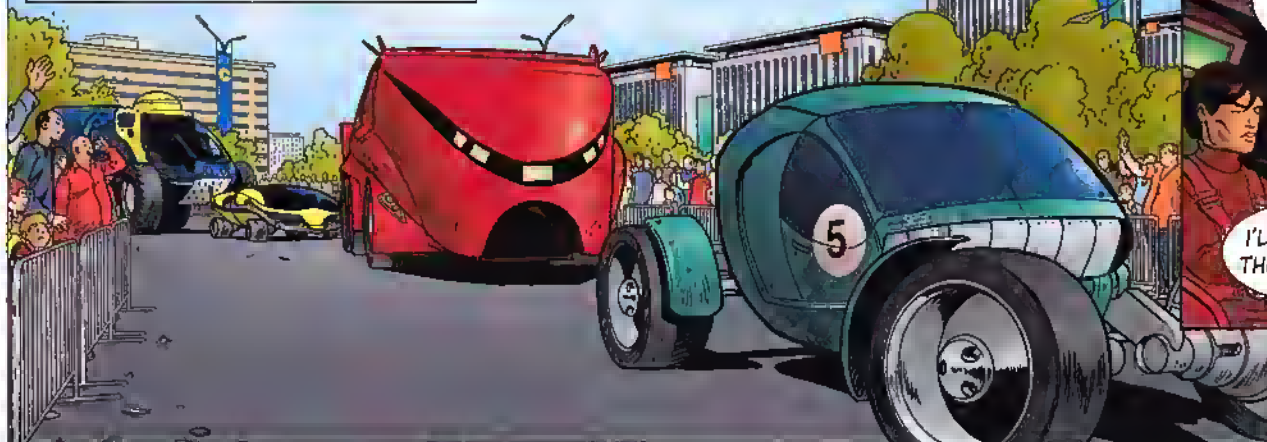
WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE LEAVES THE PALACE WE'LL SEND THE TRUCK TO REJOIN THE RACE...

THE TINTED WINDOWS WILL PREVENT ANYONE FROM SEEING INSIDE THE CABIN, SO NOBODY WILL KNOW THAT IT'S NOT BRENDA AND WINONA DRIVING THE TRUCK...

...BUT RATHER TWO OF MY MEN, WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES TO ELIMINATE TAI MO SHAN.

IT'S TIME TO START THE COUNTDOWN.

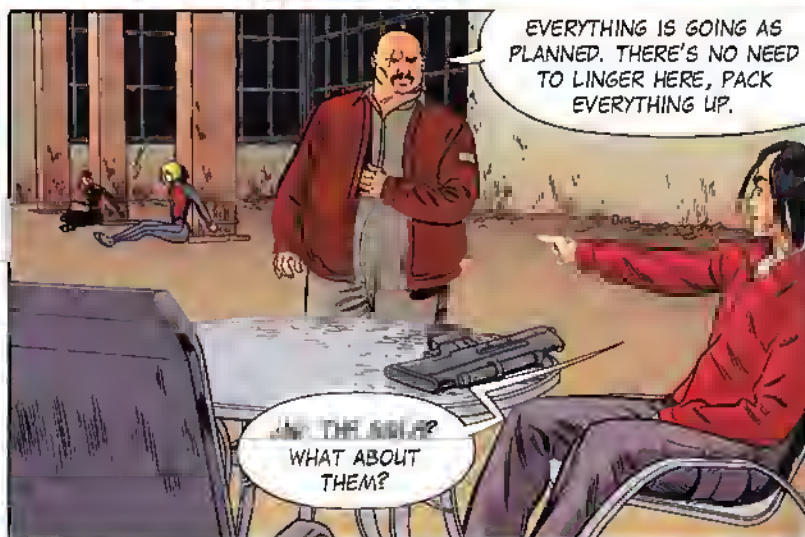
I'LL INFORM THE OTHERS.



HELLO?...
WHERE ARE
YOU?



APPROACHING TIANANMEN
SQUARE. THE CODE IS GOOD.
WE'RE COUNTING DOWN...



EVERYTHING IS GOING AS
PLANNED. THERE'S NO NEED
TO LINGER HERE, PACK
EVERYTHING UP.

THE OTHERS?
WHAT ABOUT
THEM?

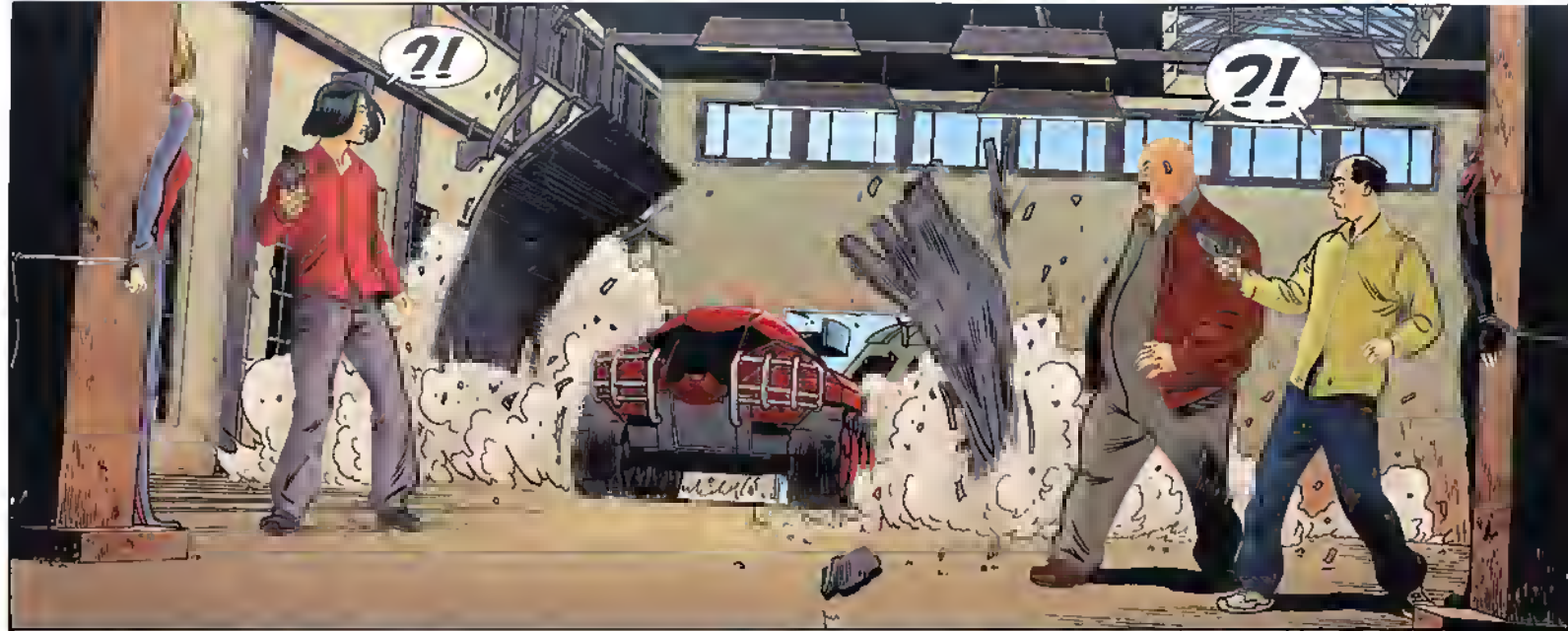


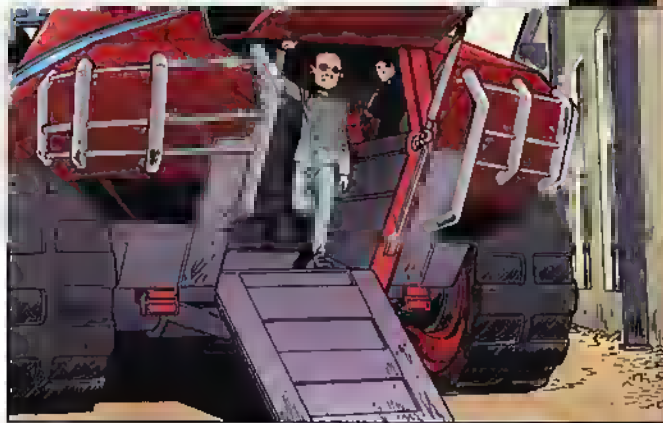
KILL
THEM.

I ONLY KEPT THEM
ALIVE TO ENSURE
THAT THE CODE
WORKED.

THEY'RE OF NO
FURTHER USE.



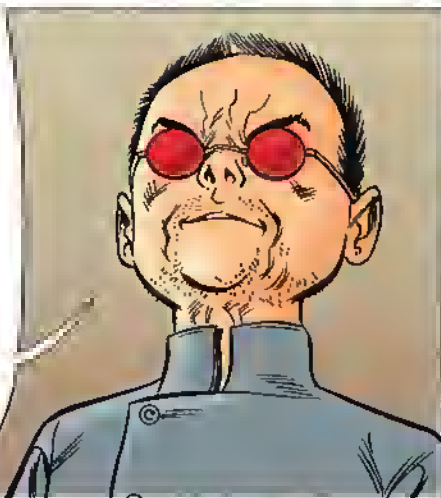




HOW DID YOU FIND US?

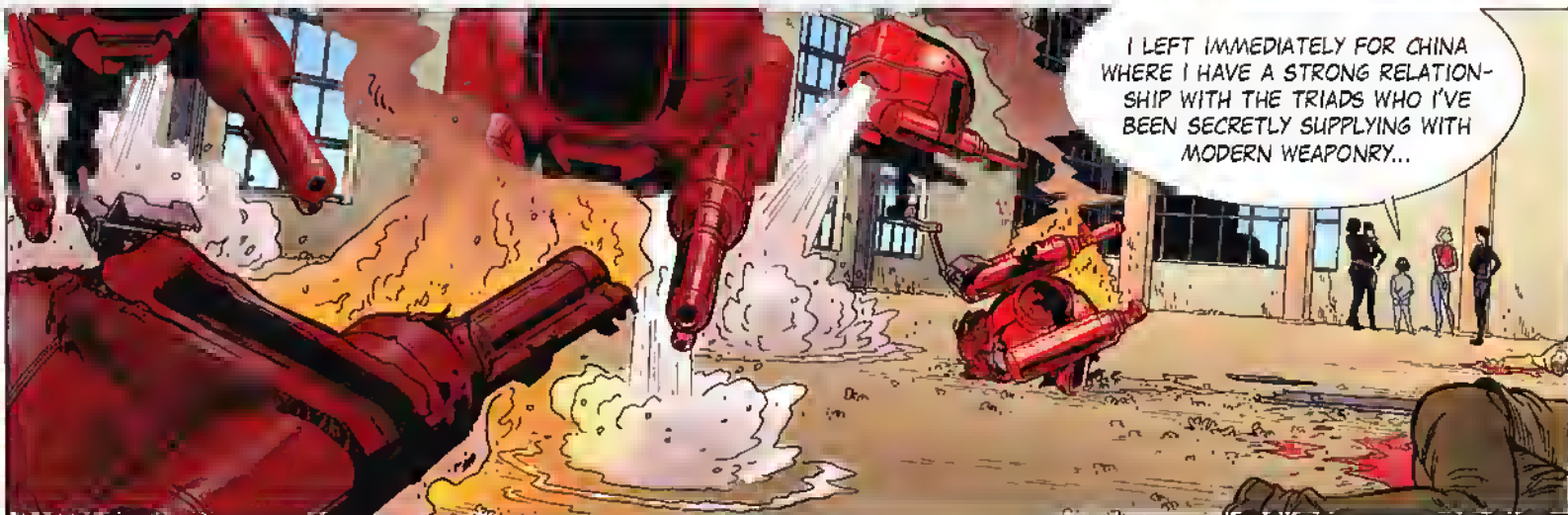
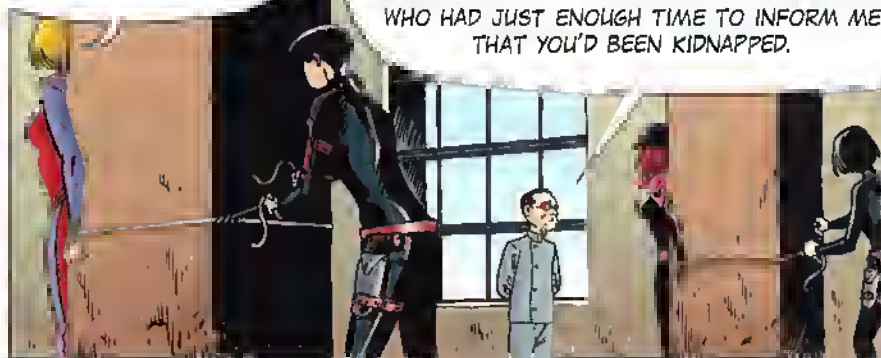
THANKS TO THE HOMING BEACON I FOLLOWED ALL THE WAY HERE FROM MY SUBMARINE BASE.

WINONA AND I HAD INITIALLY PLANNED TO PLACE IT SOMEWHERE IN THE TRUCK BUT WE COULDN'T RISK THE STEWARDS FINDING IT DURING THE TECHNICAL INSPECTION. THE GOLDEN CUP PROHIBITS ANY FORM OF GPS OR ELECTRONIC TRACKING.



THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO HIDE IT IN THE FRAME OF MY GLASSES.

IT EMITS A SIGNAL STRONG ENOUGH TO TRACK BY SATELLITE FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND WHEN YOUR ROUTE SUDDENLY DIVERGED FROM THE ROAD-BOOK I IMMEDIATELY CALLED WINONA WHO HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO INFORM ME THAT YOU'D BEEN KIDNAPPED.



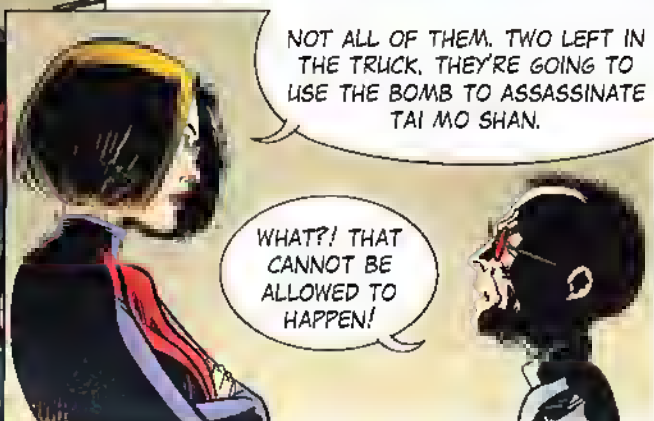
I LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR CHINA WHERE I HAVE A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRIADS WHO I'VE BEEN SECRETLY SUPPLYING WITH MODERN WEAPONRY...

WEAPONS LIKE THE COMBAT ROBOTS THAT, ALONG WITH THESE TWO CHARMING YOUNG WOMEN, HELPED ME DO AWAY WITH YOUR CAPTORS.



NOT ALL OF THEM. TWO LEFT IN THE TRUCK. THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE BOMB TO ASSASSINATE TAI MO SHAN.

WHAT?! THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!



A PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION WOULD SURELY PUT AN END TO THE GOLDEN CUP AND MY PLANS TO DESTROY GOLDEN CITY. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY PLAN TO CARRY OUT THIS ATTACK?

THE ROUTE IS KEPT SECRET FOR SECURITY REASONS BUT THEY MANAGED TO OBTAIN IT, AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS COMPUTER.

IN THAT CASE ALL IS NOT LOST. IF WE JUST FOLLOW THE ROUTE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY DETONATE THE BOMB.

TRAFFIC IN THE CITY CENTRE WILL BE A NIGHTMARE TODAY.

SOMEWHERE EN ROUTE TO TIANANMEN SQUARE.

WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO THEM.

YES, WE WILL.

SHOULD WE WAIT HERE?

NO!

I'LL NEED YOU TO NEUTRALIZE THE KIDNAPPERS.

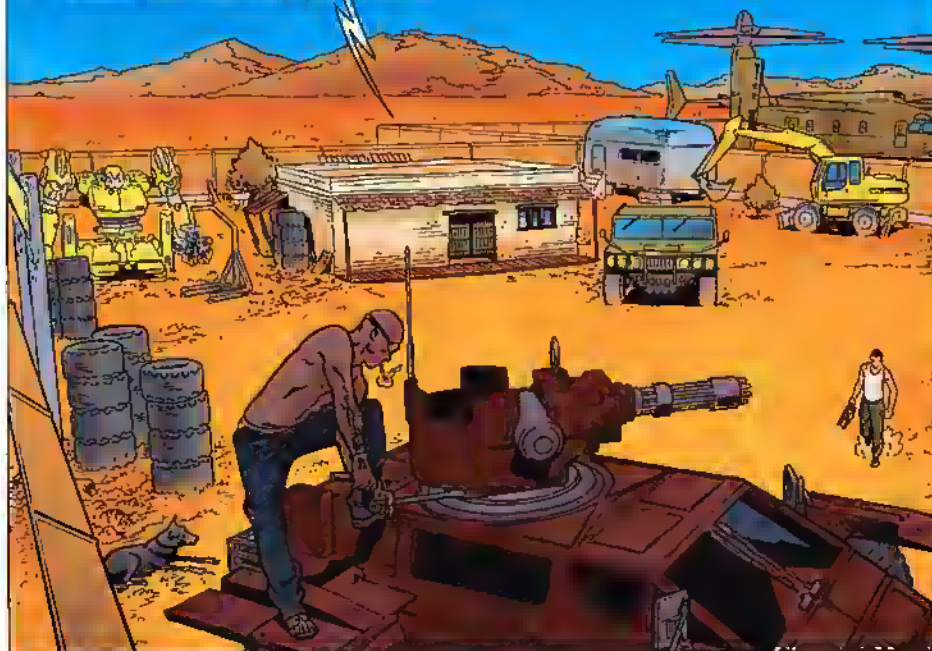
AND THE ROBOTS?

WE'LL RETRIEVE THEM LATER.

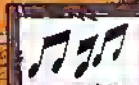
WHO ARE THESE CHINESE TARTS?

THEY BELONG TO THE TRIAD OF THE RED DRAGON. THEY'RE FORMIDABLE SOLDIERS AND EXPERTS IN MARTIAL ARTS.

IT'S TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND THE FIRST SURVIVORS OF THE ANADYR-BEIJING STAGE ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE.

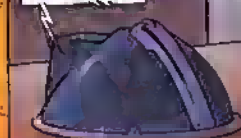


...THE FATIGUE IS EVIDENT ON THEIR FACES.



THE DRIVERS HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE WHEEL FOR FOUR DAYS, STOPPING ONLY TO REFUEL...

IF THE LONG STAGE WAS HARD ON THE DRIVERS, IT WAS HARDER ON THEIR MACHINES. MANY CREWS WERE FORCED TO RETIRE. OTHERS WERE LOST IN THE GOBI DESERT.

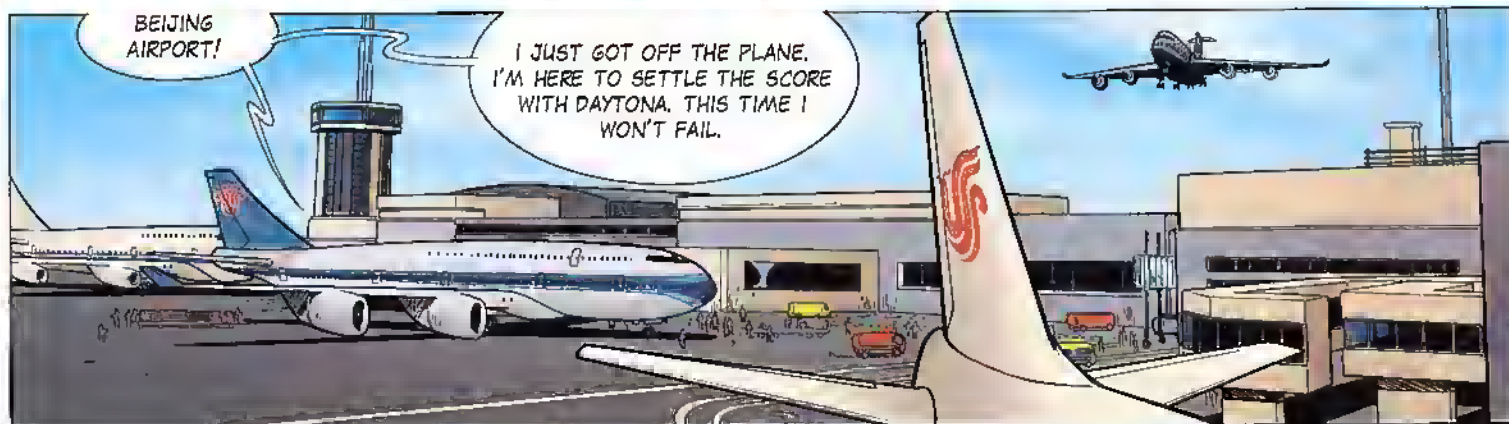


HELLO?...
AH, IT'S YOU,
CARUSO! WHERE
ARE YOU?

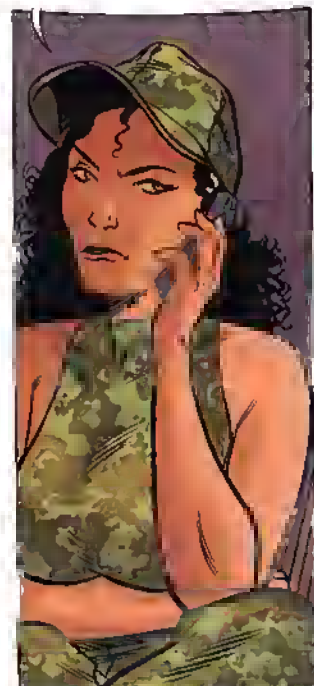


BEIJING
AIRPORT!

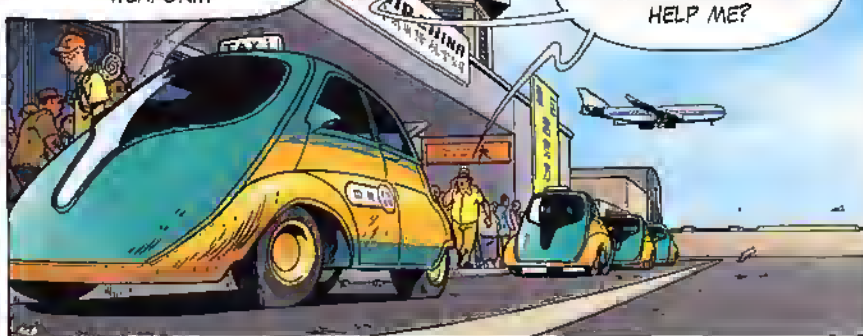
I JUST GOT OFF THE PLANE.
I'M HERE TO SETTLE THE SCORE
WITH DAYTONA. THIS TIME I
WON'T FAIL.



THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS
SAY RIGHT BEFORE YOU
FAIL. JUST GIVE IT UP!



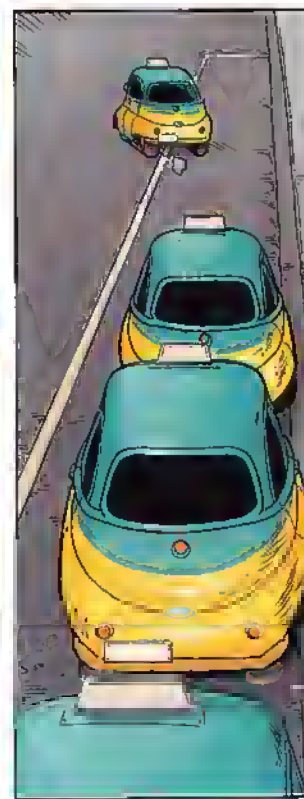
NOT THIS TIME. HIS DAYS
ARE NUMBERED, BELIEVE
ME! I JUST NEED A
WEAPON...

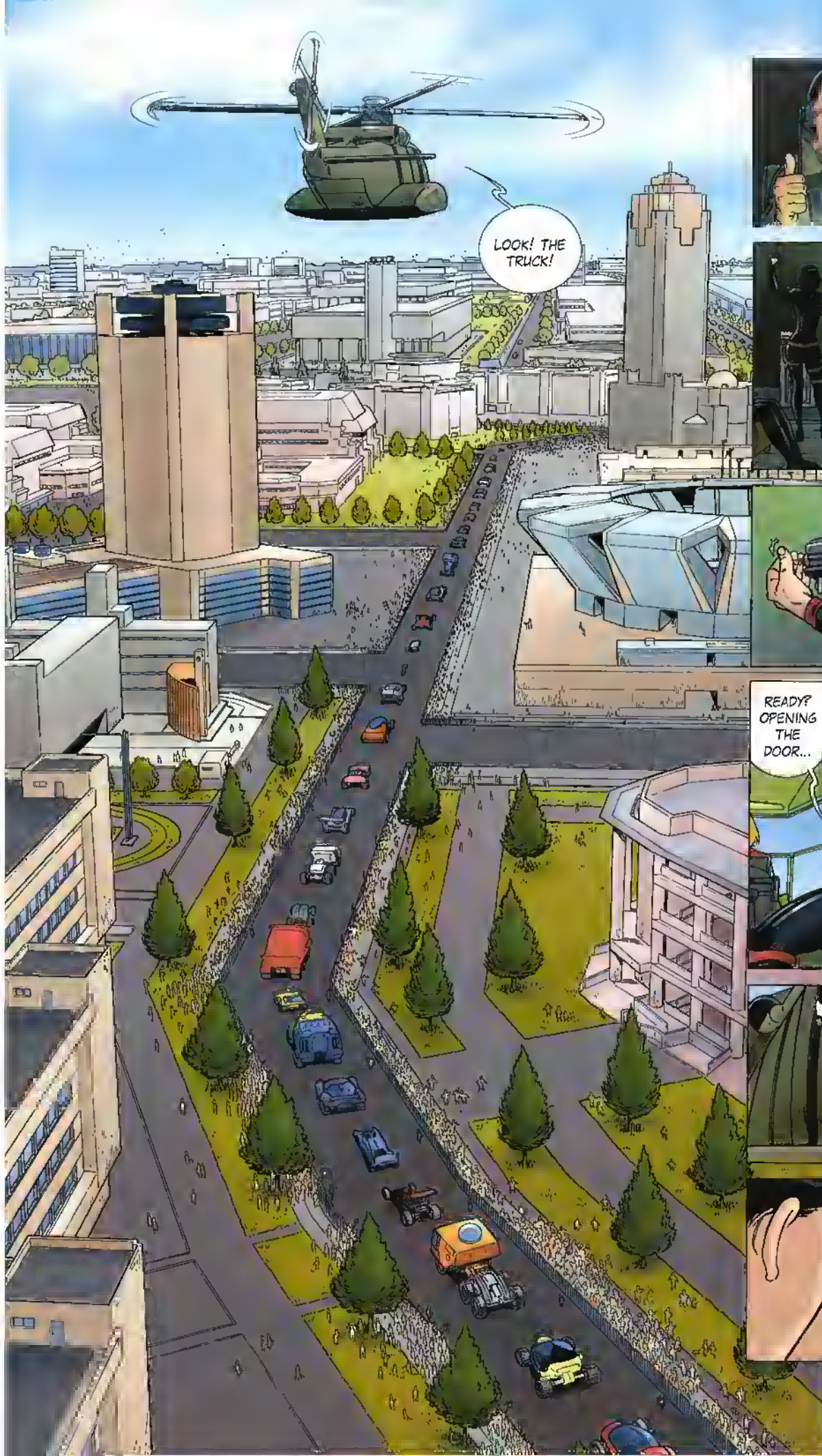


DO YOU KNOW ANYONE
IN BEIJING WHO COULD
HELP ME?



WHO?... HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT?...
WHERE DOES HE LIVE?... THANKS,
RITA! I'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED...

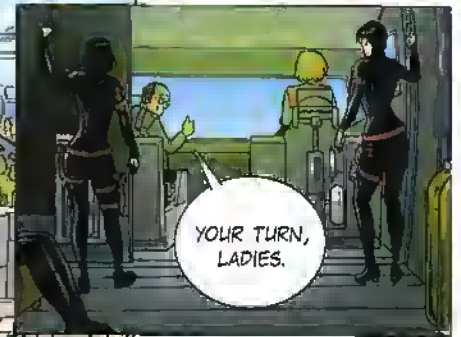




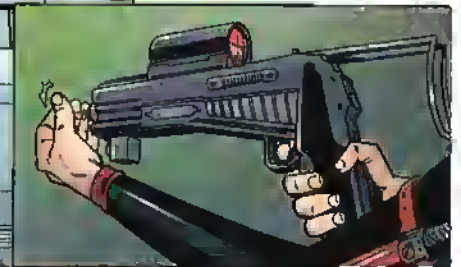
LOOK! THE TRUCK!



WE'VE FOUND THEM! NOW TO NEUTRALISE THEM BEFORE THEY CAN DETONATE THE BOMB!

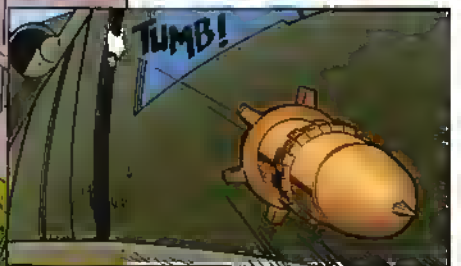


YOUR TURN, LADIES.



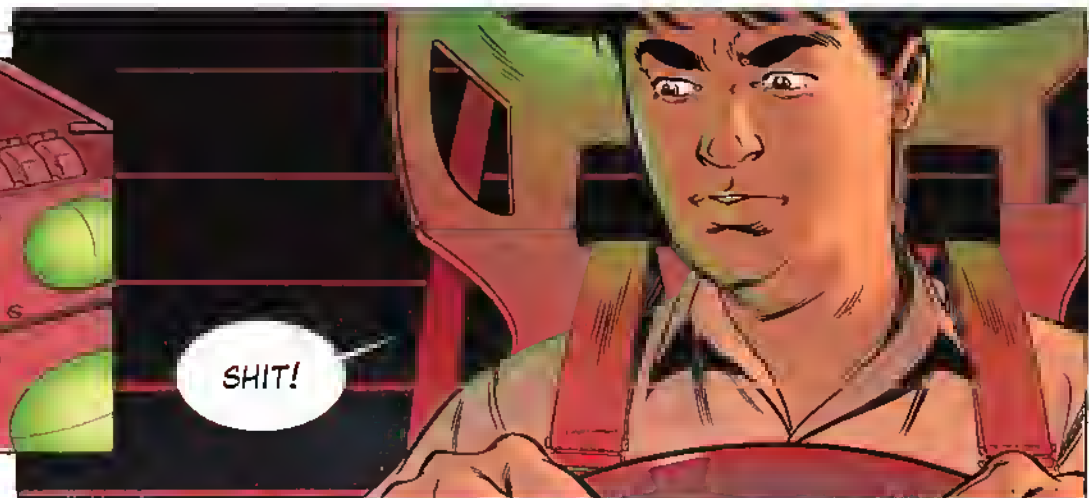
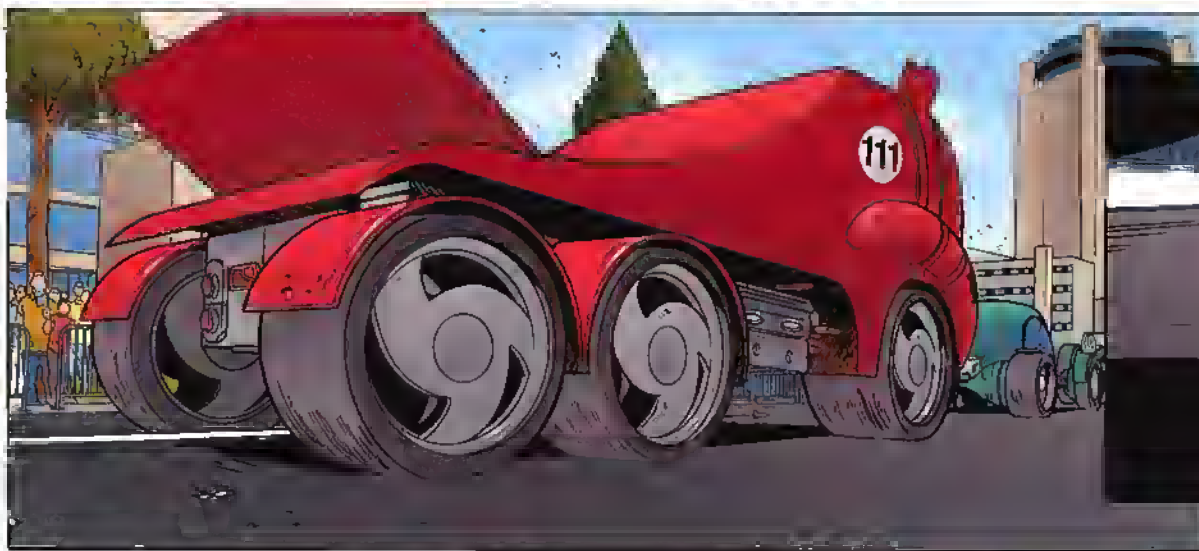
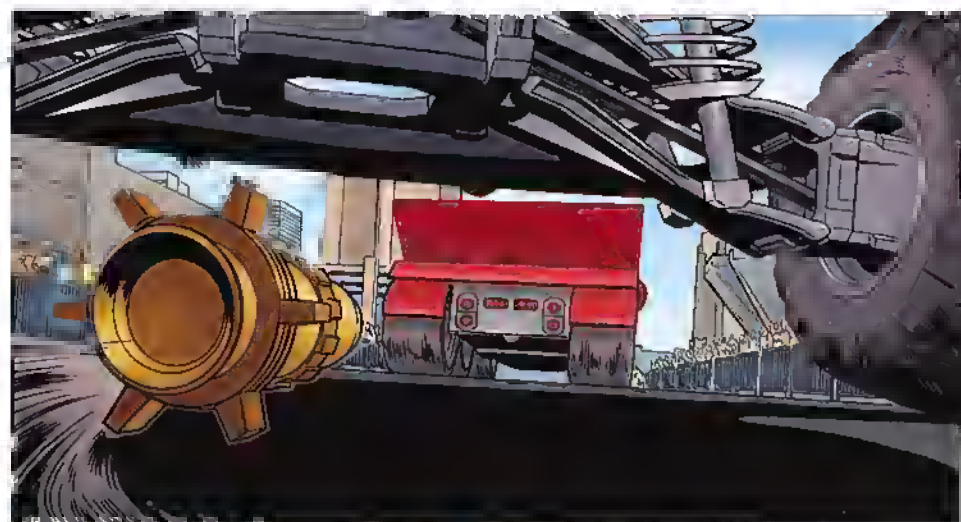
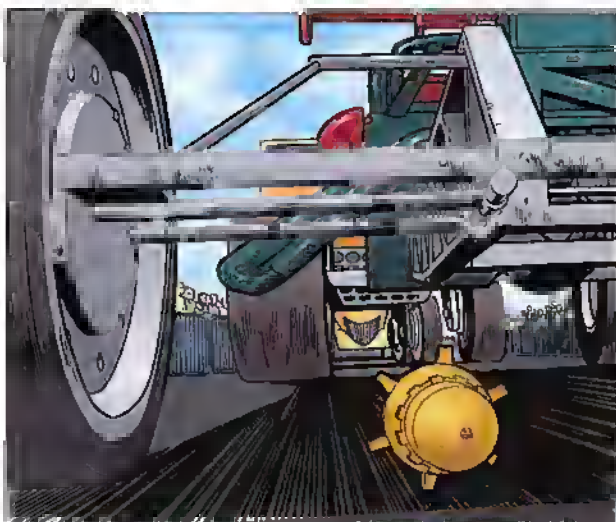
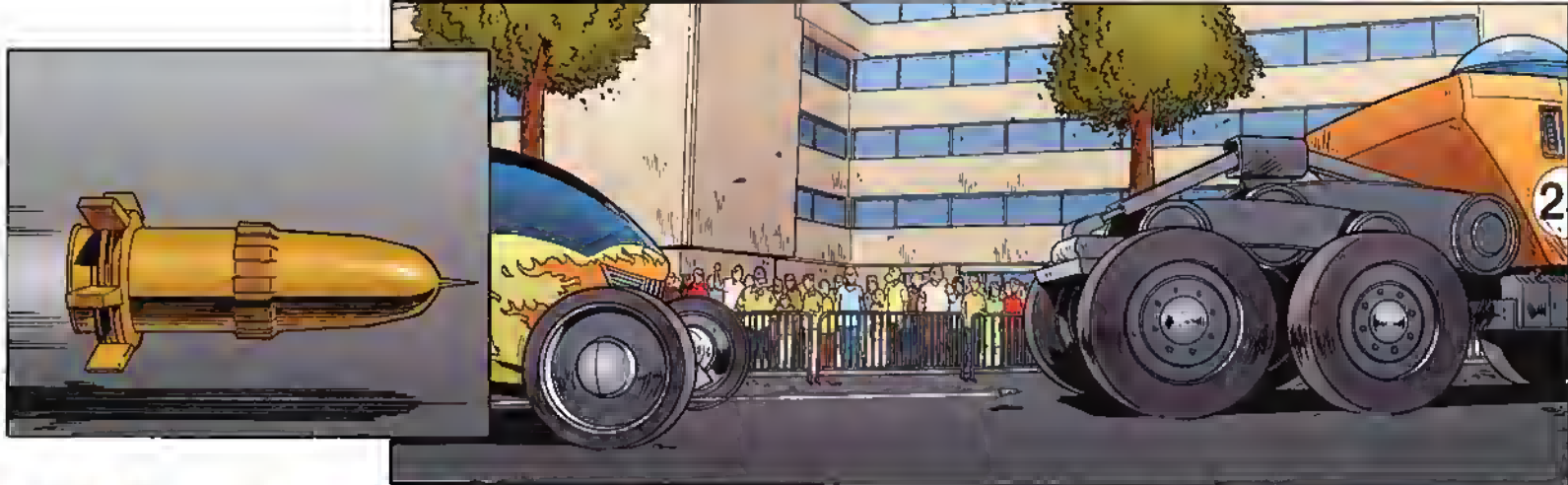
READY? OPENING THE DOOR...

NOT TOO MUCH. I DON'T WANT TO BE VISIBLE FROM THE GROUND.



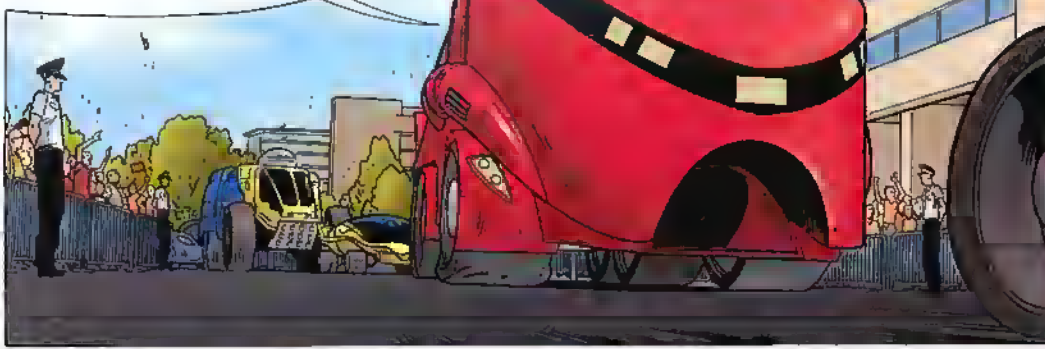
TUMB!



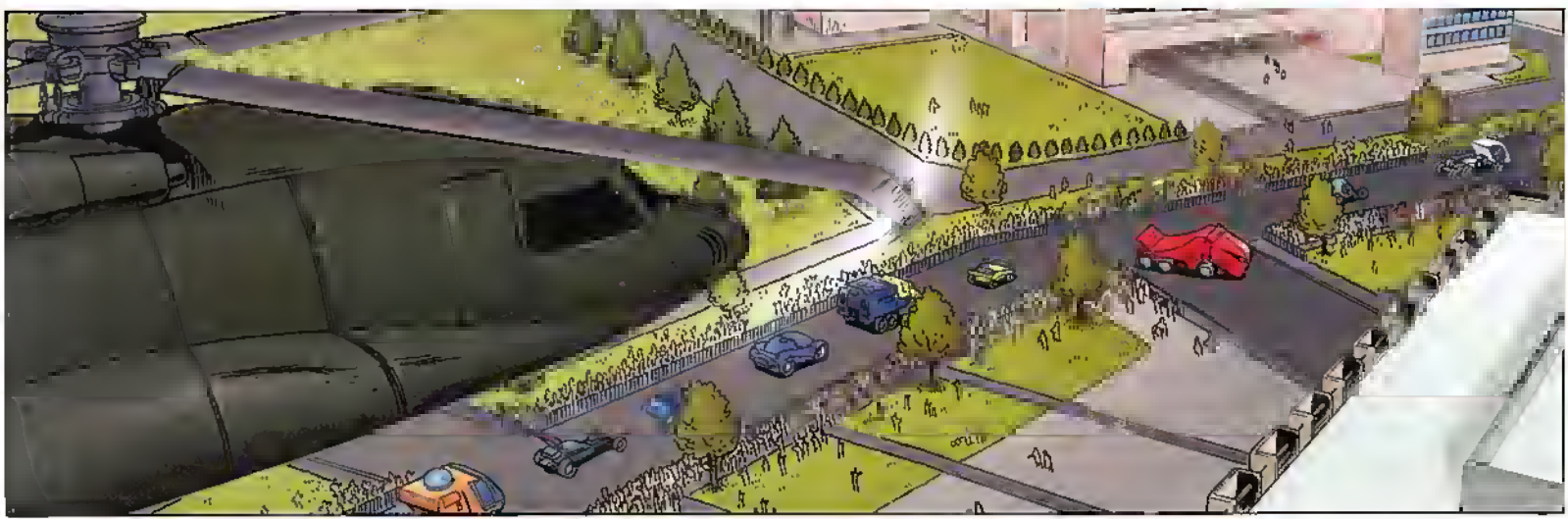
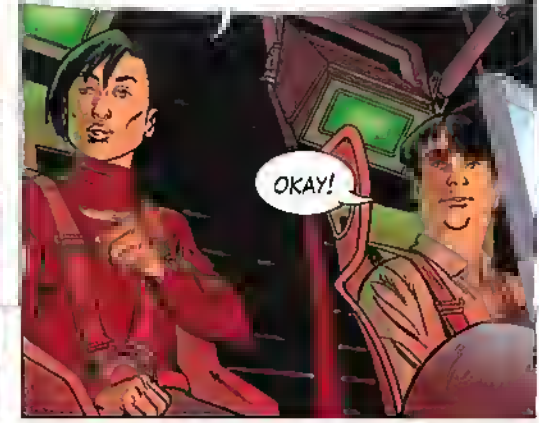


SHIT!

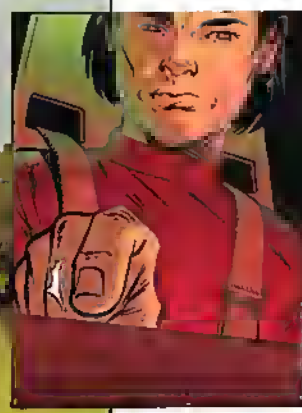
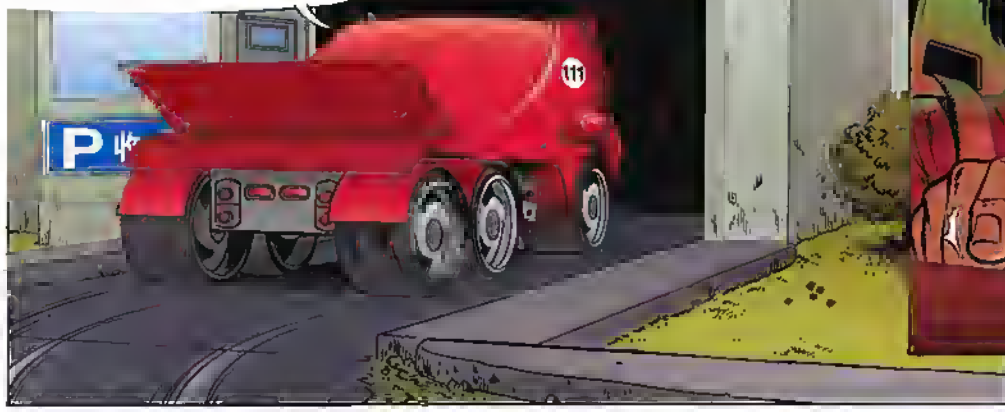
WE CAN'T DRIVE AROUND LIKE THIS WITHOUT SHREDDING THE TIRE, BUT IF WE STOP HERE WE'LL DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE...



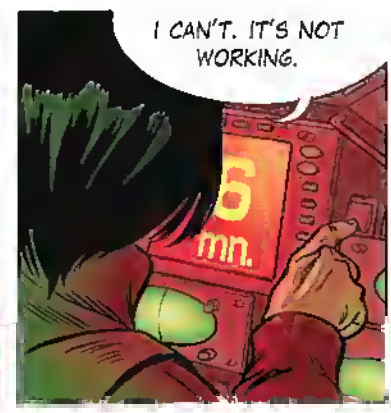
THERE! UNDERGROUND PARKING. WE CAN MAKE OUR REPAIRS IN PRIVATE.



STOP THE COUNTDOWN, WE CAN REACTIVATE WHEN WE'RE DONE.



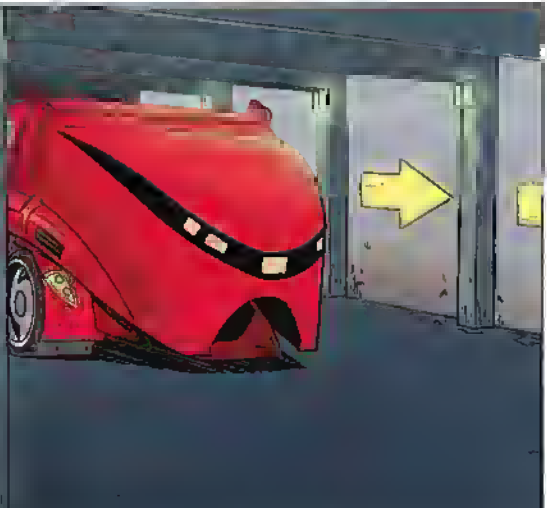
I CAN'T. IT'S NOT WORKING.

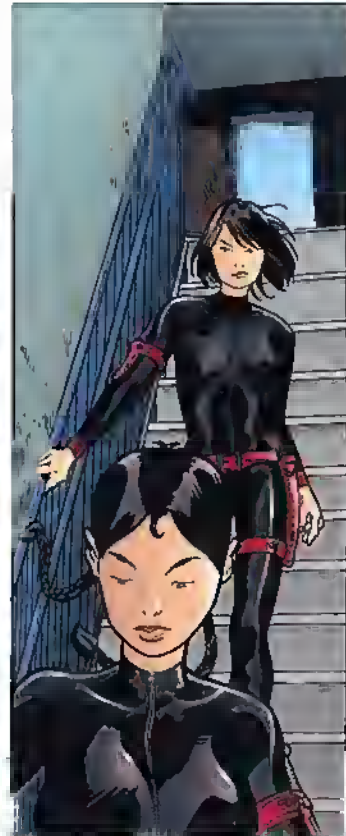
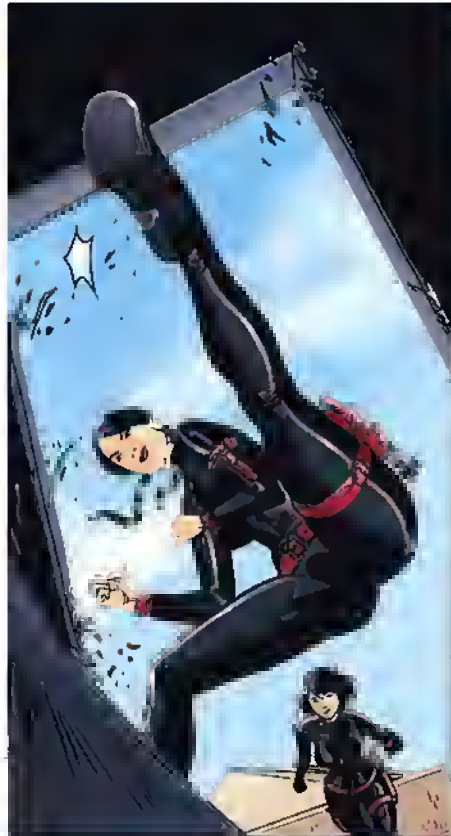
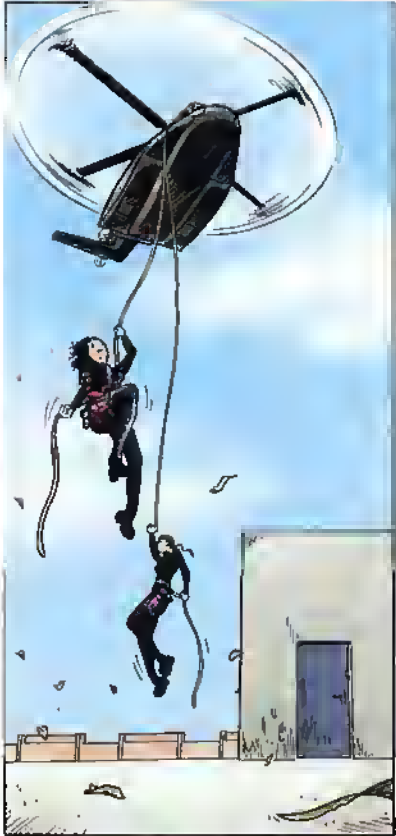


I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?



SIX MINUTES. NOT MUCH TIME TO CHANGE A TIRE.





WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS?



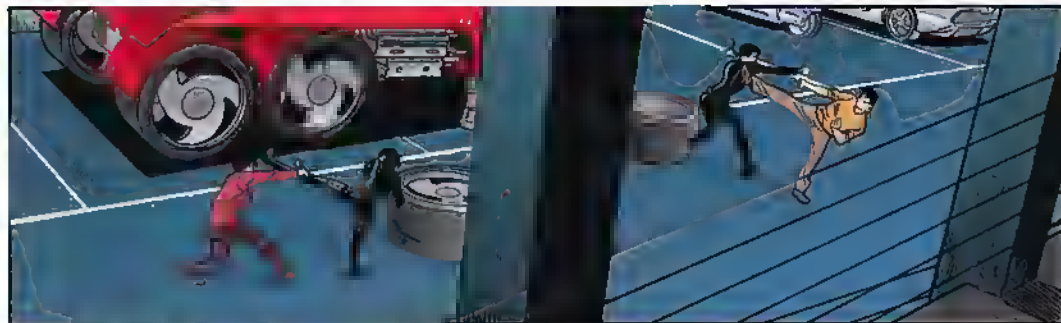
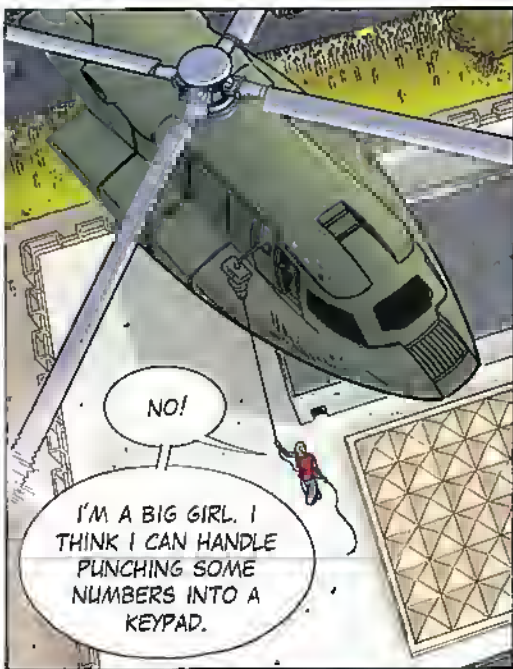
A MINI-DRONE CAPABLE
OF PIERCING MOST
MATERIAL.

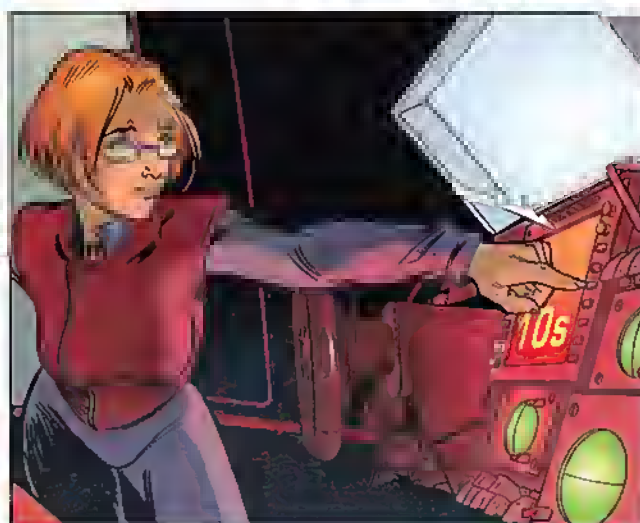
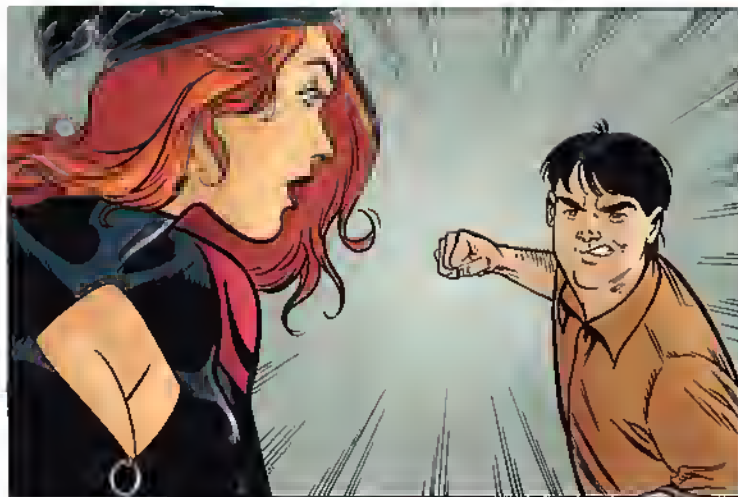
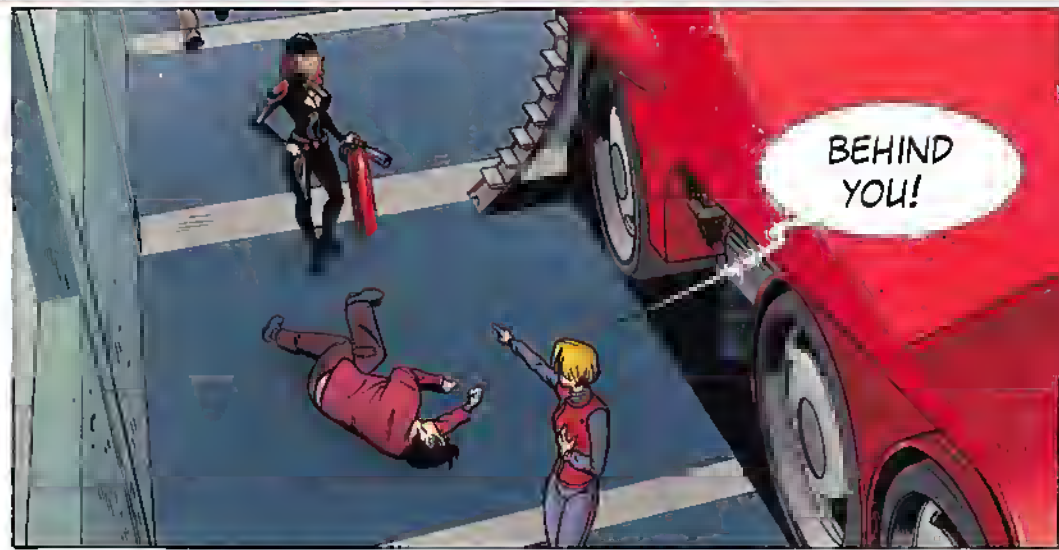
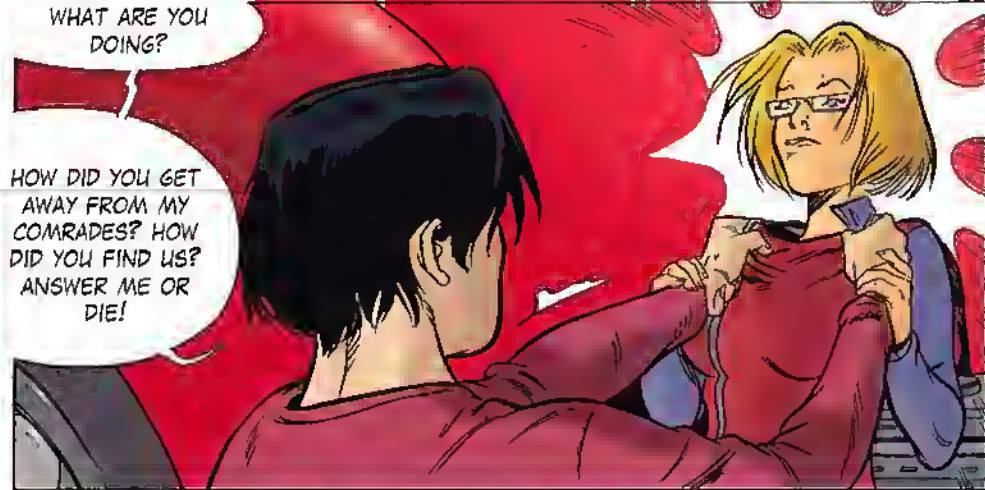
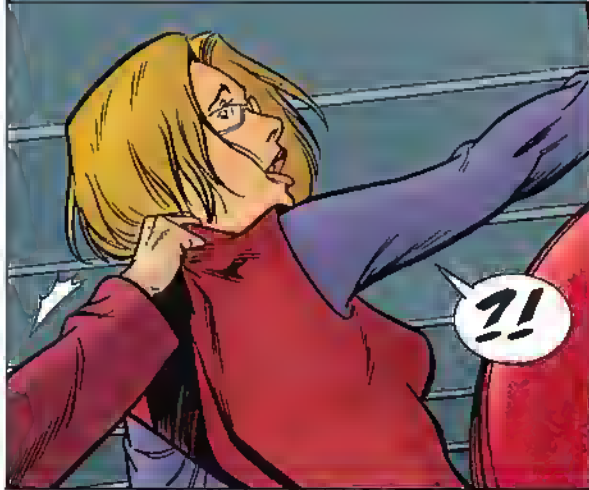


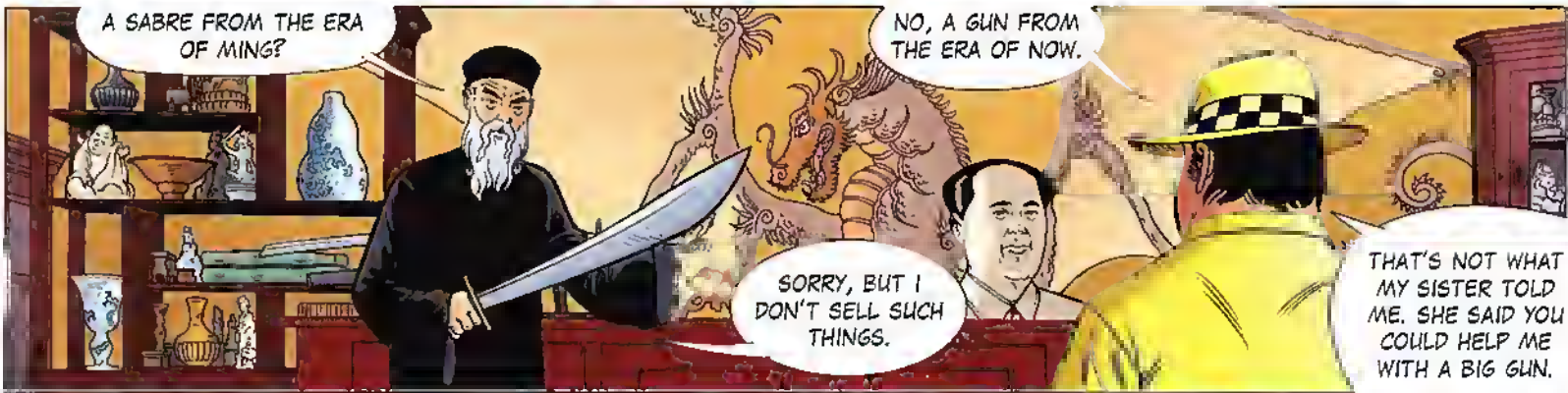
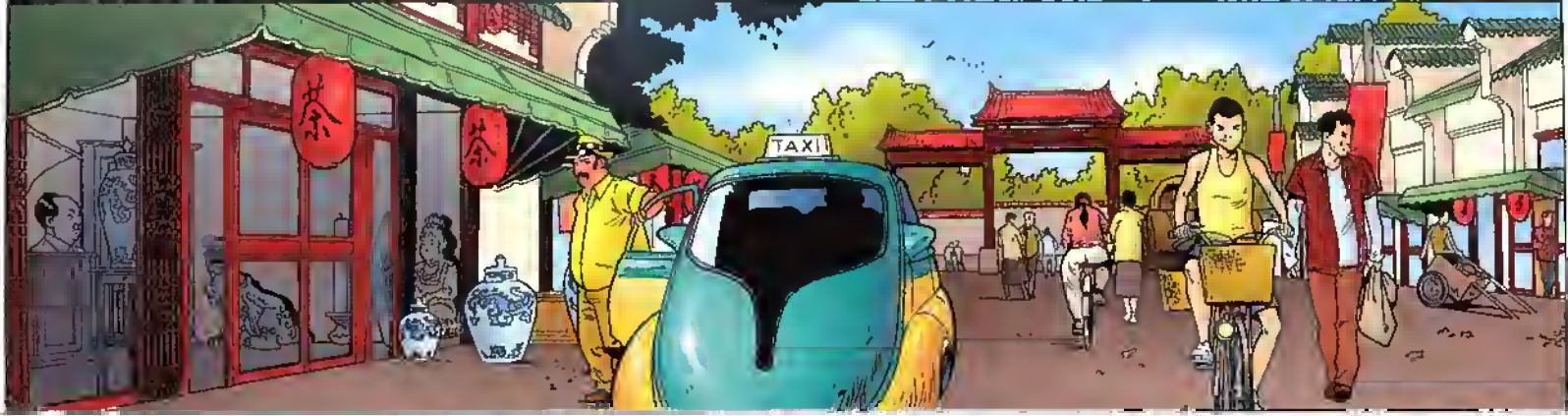
?!

IDEAL FOR
PUNCTURING
TIRES.











HOLY CRAP, YOU'VE GOT A VERITABLE ARSENAL STASHED BACK HERE. WHEN I WAS A KID I DREAMED OF HAVING A PLACE LIKE THIS.

I ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR GUNS.

COME IN, PLEASE.

WELL, ENJOY! THERE'S PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM. WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR? PISTOL? RIFLE? BAZOOKA?



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I CAN'T DECIDE. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?



SURE.

IT DEPENDS ON YOUR NEEDS. MAY I ASK A VULGAR QUESTION, MISTER CARUSO?

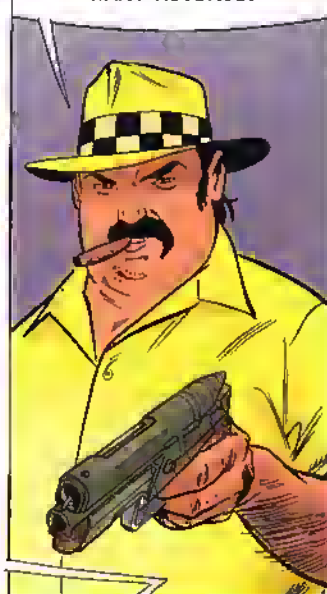
WHY DO YOU NEED THIS WEAPON? PROTECTION? ASSASSINATION? SPORT? ROBBERY?



TO KILL DAYTONA.

WHO'S THAT?

A KID I RESCUED FROM POVERTY. HE THANKED ME BY STEALING MY WIFE. I WANT REVENGE.



ANY MAN WOULD DO THE SAME IN YOUR PLACE.



I JUST NEED TO BE DISCREET ABOUT IT AND AVOID THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE.

I DON'T WANT TO END UP IN JAIL.



THEN A PISTOL IS A BAD CHOICE, BECAUSE YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CLOSE...

...OR YOU MIGHT MISS, WHICH YOU'LL AGREE IS HARDLY DISCREET.



I ALSO DON'T RECOMMEND A MACHINE GUN. WHILE IT OFFERS THE ADVANTAGE OF RANGE, FIRING SEVERAL BURSTS FROM A MOVING CAR COULD RESULT IN DEATH OR INJURY TO INNOCENT PEDESTRIANS. ATTRACTING THAT SORT OF ATTENTION IS MOST INDISCREET.

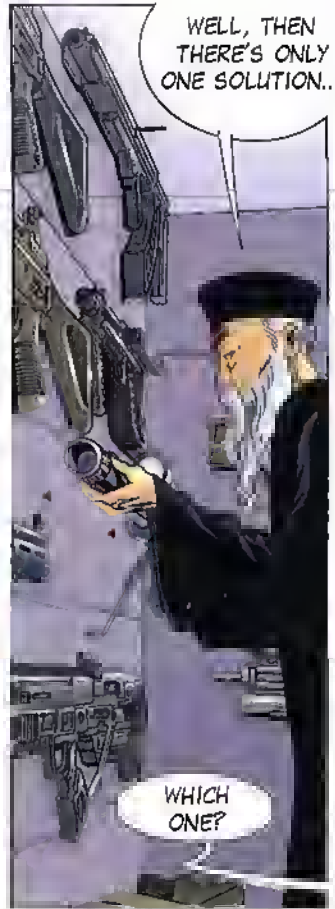


FOR THE SAME REASON I'D ADVISE AGAINST ASSAULT RIFLES AND BAZOOKAS. WHAT REMAINS IS THE SNIPER RIFLE...

THE SCOPE ALLOWS FOR PINPOINT ACCURACY OVER HUNDREDS OF METERS SO A SHOOTER CAN ELIMINATE A RIVAL WITH ABSOLUTE DISCRETION. HOWEVER, THIS WEAPON REQUIRES SKILLED HANDS. ARE YOU A TRAINED SNIPER?



LORD, NO. I RECENTLY MISSED DAYTONA WITH A GREAT BIG MISSILE.

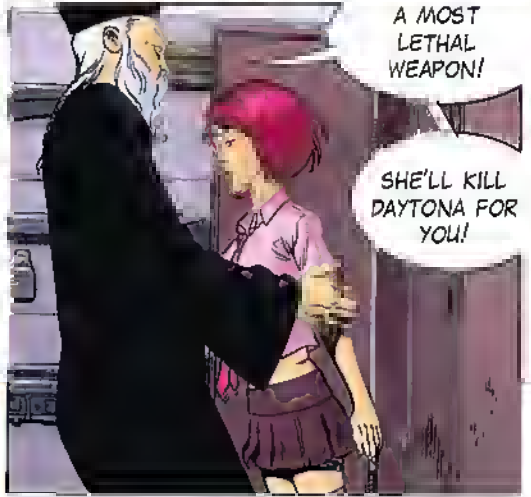


WELL, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION...

WHICH ONE?



THIS ONE!



A MOST LETHAL WEAPON!

SHE'LL KILL DAYTONA FOR YOU!



IS THAT... A ROBOT?

YES! A NEXT GENERATION ROBOT! RIGHT NOW THERE ARE ONLY FIVE IN THE WORLD, ALL RESERVED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE CHINESE ARMY. STRICTLY NOT FOR SALE OR EXPORT.

FULLY PROGRAMMABLE. IT'S CAPABLE OF ANYTHING, EVEN LOVE, AND CAN HAVE AUTONOMY FOR SEVERAL DAYS THANKS TO ADVANCED SOLAR CELLS.

IF THEY AREN'T FOR SALE, HOW DO YOU HAVE ONE?



A WISE MAN ONCE SAID: WHAT YOU CAN'T BUY, YOU STEAL.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LIFELIKE ANDROID. IT'S AMAZING. LIKE A REAL GIRL, AND A DAMN SEXY ONE TOO!



SO SEXY THAT NO MAN CAN RESIST HER. SHE ATTRACTS NOT ONLY WITH HER BEAUTY, BUT ALSO WITH EROTIC ESSENCES THAT EMANATE FROM HER SKIN. IT DRIVES MEN CRAZY WITH DESIRE, AND WHEN THEY FALL INTO HER ARMS SHE KILLS WITH A KISS.



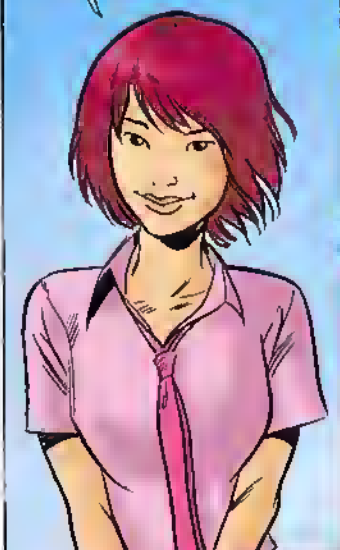
NANO-ROBOTS WITH DEADLY POISON GUSH FROM HER TONGUE. THE EFFECT IS INSTANTANEOUS.



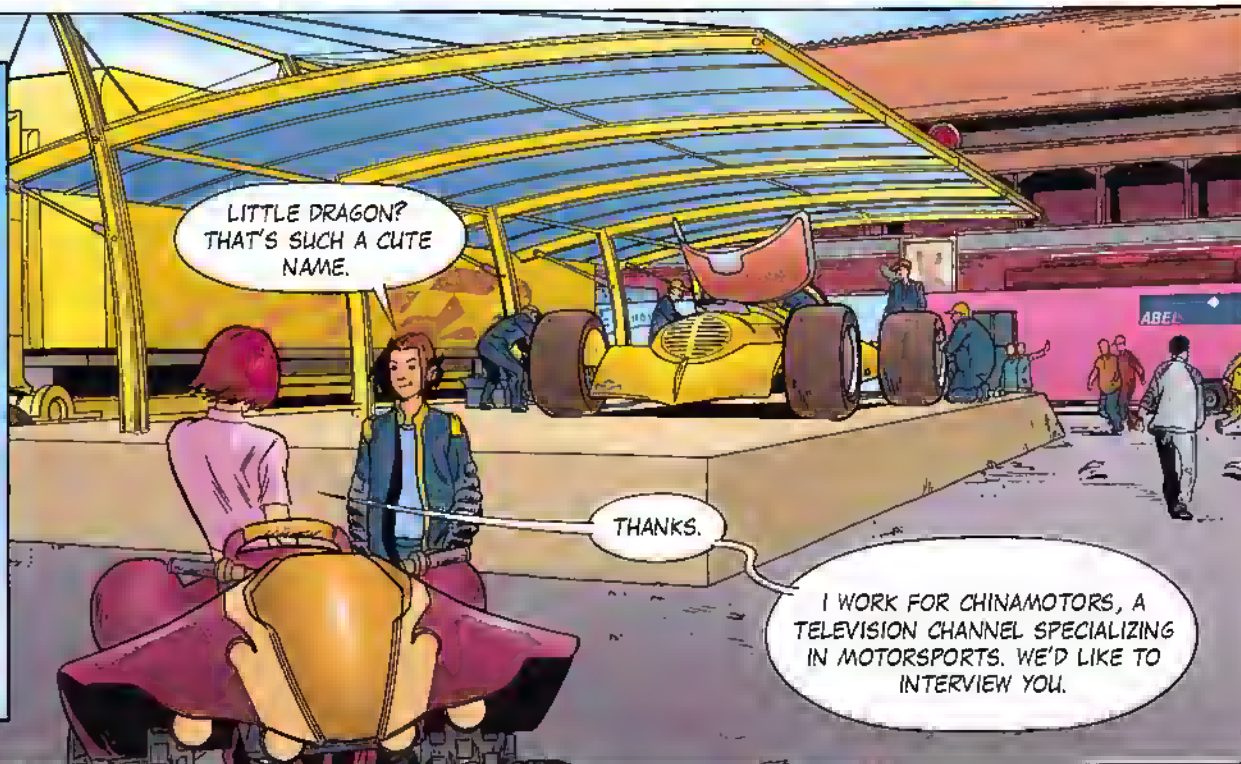
YES!

WELL, WHAT IS IT?

XIAO LONG!... IT MEANS "LITTLE DRAGON".



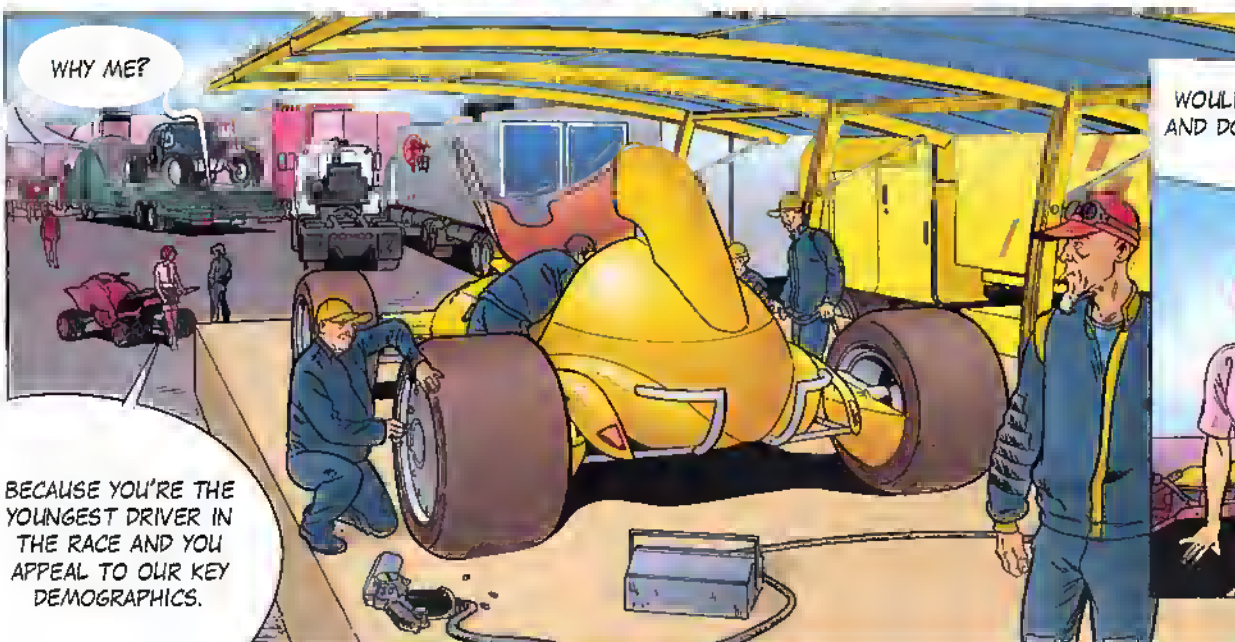
LITTLE DRAGON? THAT'S SUCH A CUTE NAME.



THANKS.

I WORK FOR CHINAMOTORS, A TELEVISION CHANNEL SPECIALIZING IN MOTORSPORTS. WE'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU.

WHY ME?



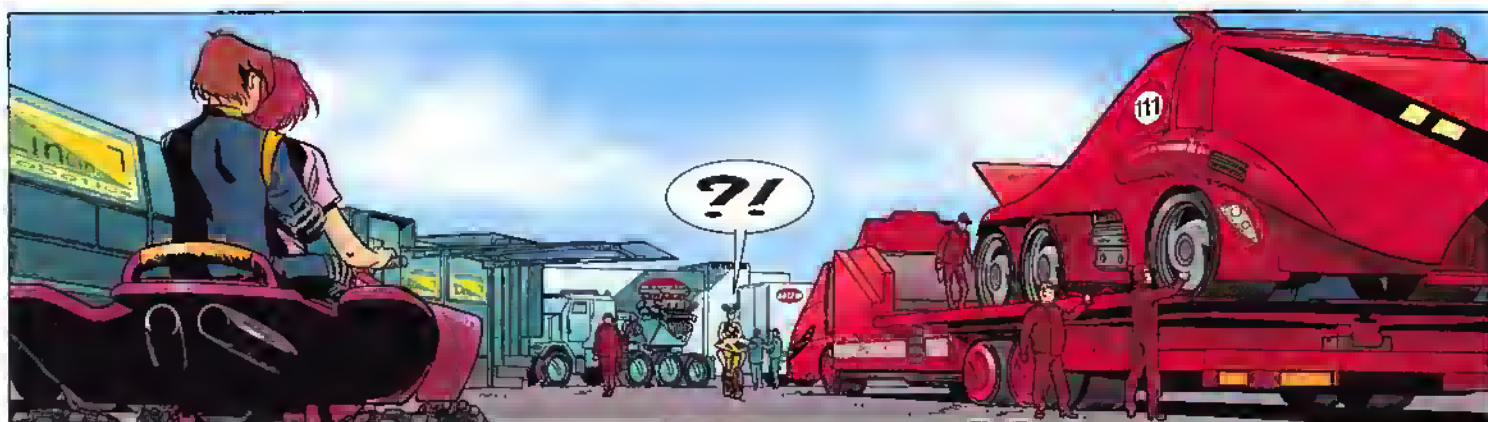
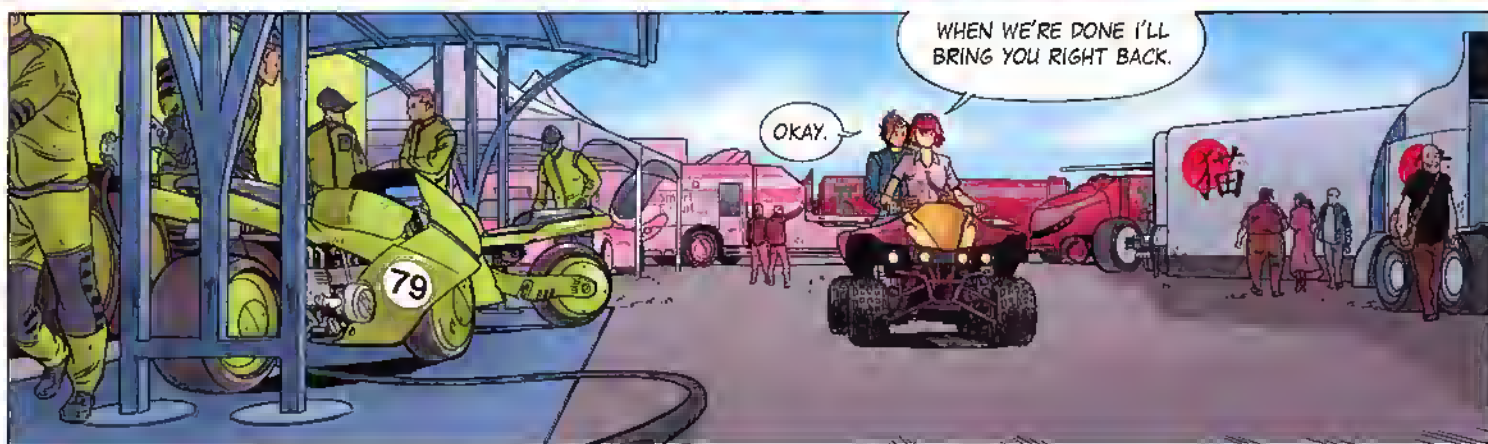
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST DRIVER IN THE RACE AND YOU APPEAL TO OUR KEY DEMOGRAPHICS.

WOULD YOU COME TO OUR STUDIOS AND DO IT LIVE ON A SHOW DEVOTED TO THE GOLDEN CUP?



NOW?

YES.





WHERE'S DOUDINKA?

WATCHING THE GOLDEN CUP ON TELEVISION.

SHE USED TO HATE MOTORSPORT. SINCE WHEN IS SHE INTERESTED?

SINCE SHE SAVED THAT BOY FROM DROWNING. YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHOSE CAR SLID DOWN THE RAVINE? WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

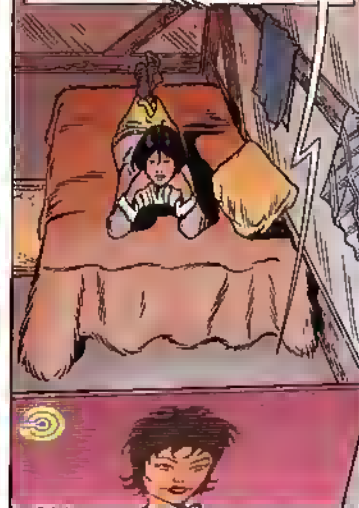
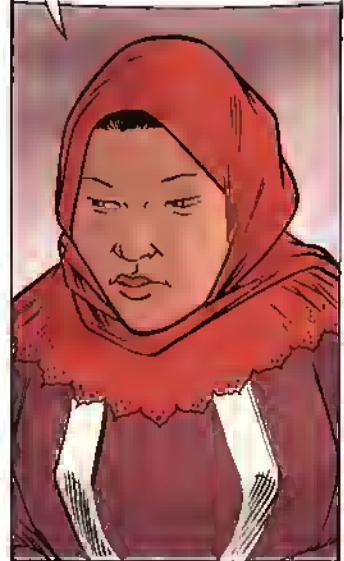
YES, THAT'S IT. SINCE SHE FOUND HIM I HARDLY RECOGNIZE HER. SHE'S FOREVER DAYDREAMING AND BABBLING ABOUT HER HANDSOME YOUNG DRIVER.

THE ORGANIZERS HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED THE OFFICIAL RESULTS! THE WINNER OF THE ANADYR-BEIJING STAGE IS DAYTONA! MORE THAN TWO HOURS AHEAD OF HIS NEAREST RIVAL!

HE RECORDED AMAZING TIMES THROUGHOUT THE MARATHON STAGE AND WAS ONE OF THE ONLY COMPETITORS NOT WAYLAID DURING THE CROSSING OF THE GOBI DESERT BY A SAND STORM THAT WRECKED HAVOC ON THE FIELD OF RACERS.



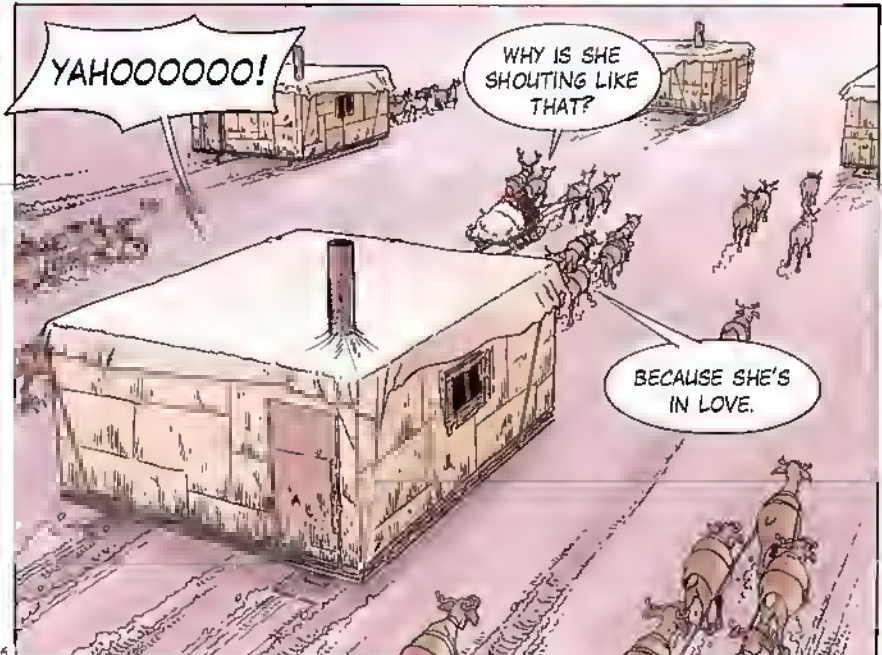
DAYTONA.



SEVERAL LUCKY VIEWERS PICKED VICTORIA TO WIN THE STAGE AS PART OF OUR CONTEST. THE OVERALL WINNER WAS DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAW...

AND SHE IS... DOUDINKA PETROVA! DOUDINKA AND A PERSON OF HER CHOICE, WIN A TRIP TO GOLDEN CITY TO WATCH THE FINISH OF THE GOLDEN CUP IN SOUTH AFRICA!

YESSSSS!
I WON! I WON!
I WON!



YAHOOOOOOO!

WHY IS SHE SHOUTING LIKE THAT?

BECAUSE SHE'S IN LOVE.



IS IT STILL FAR TO THE TV STUDIO?

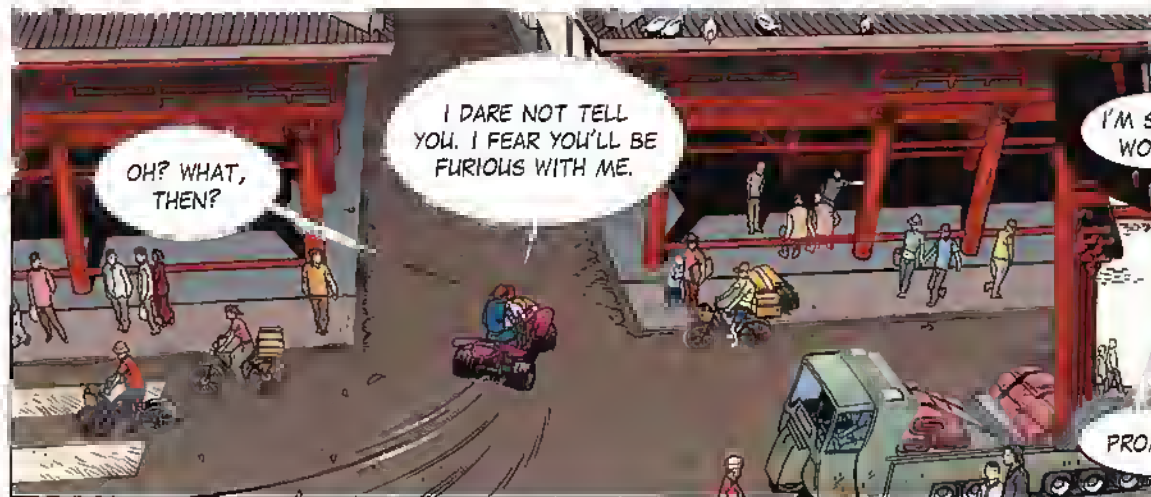
I LIED TO YOU.



I THOUGHT SO.

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

YOU SAID IT WAS CLOSE BUT IT'S BEEN LIKE A HALF HOUR SINCE WE LEFT.



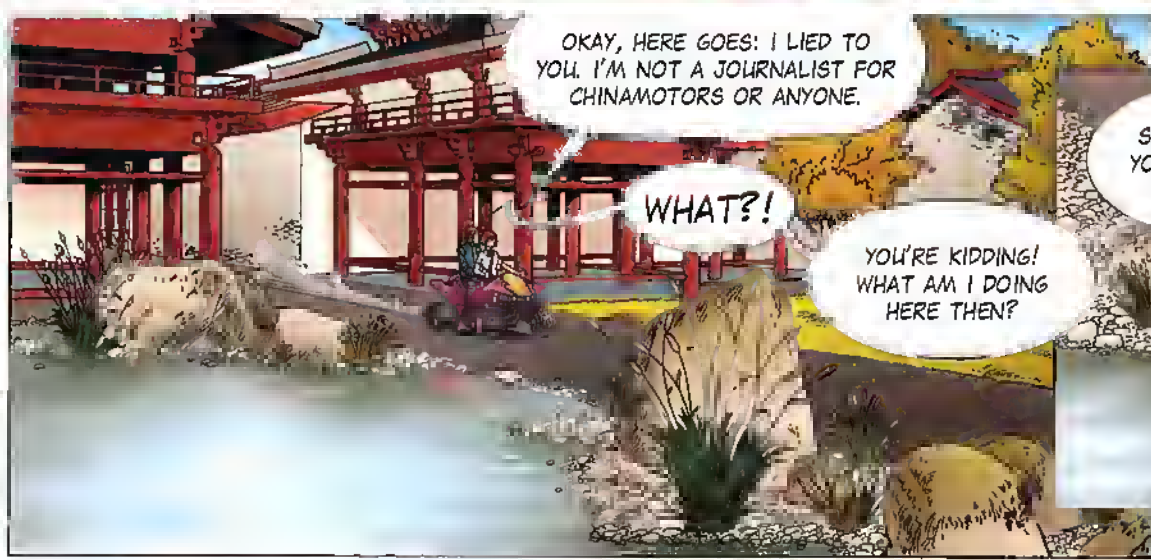
OH? WHAT, THEN?

I DARE NOT TELL YOU. I FEAR YOU'LL BE FURIOUS WITH ME.

I'M SURE I WON'T!

REALLY? YOU WON'T BE ANGRY? PROMISE?

PROMISE!



OKAY, HERE GOES: I LIED TO YOU. I'M NOT A JOURNALIST FOR CHINAMOTORS OR ANYONE.

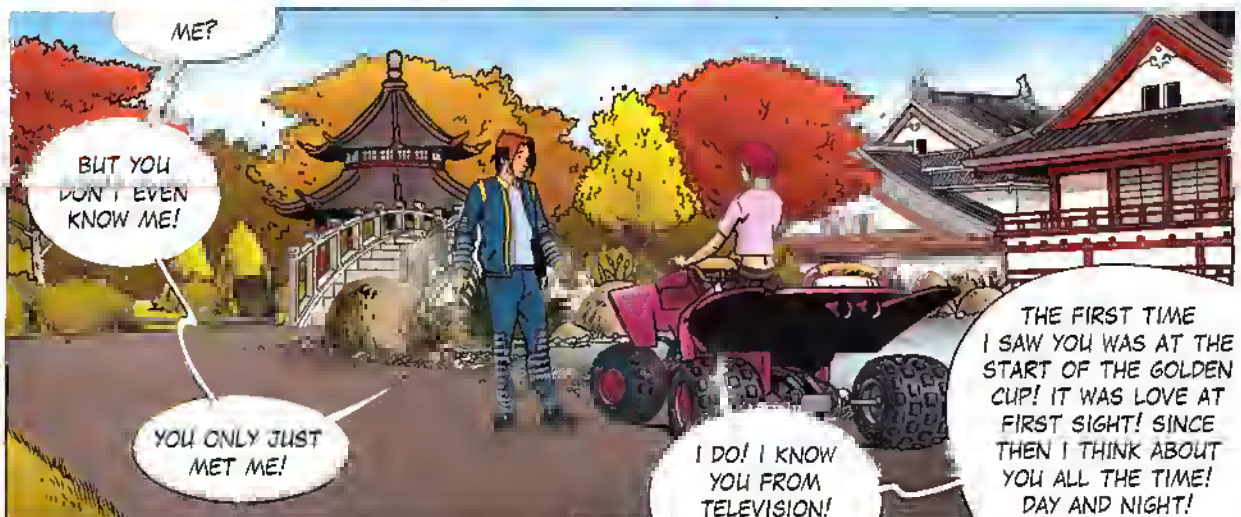
WHAT?!

YOU'RE KIDDING! WHAT AM I DOING HERE THEN?

SEE, I TOLD YOU YOU'D BE FURIOUS!

I HAVE GOOD CAUSE! WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS CHARADE?

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU ALONE SO I COULD TELL YOU THAT... I LOVE YOU.



ME?

BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME!

YOU ONLY JUST MET ME!

I DO! I KNOW YOU FROM TELEVISION!

THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU WAS AT THE START OF THE GOLDEN CUP! IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! SINCE THEN I THINK ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME! DAY AND NIGHT!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S SAYING, BUT THE BASTARD LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN LOVE! HEHE!



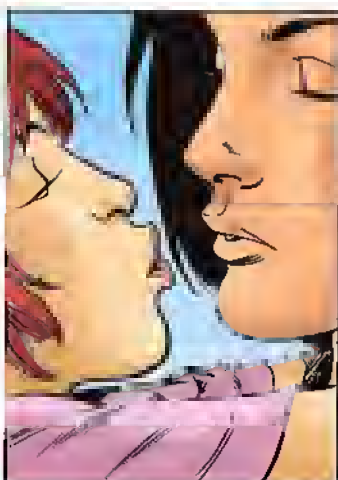
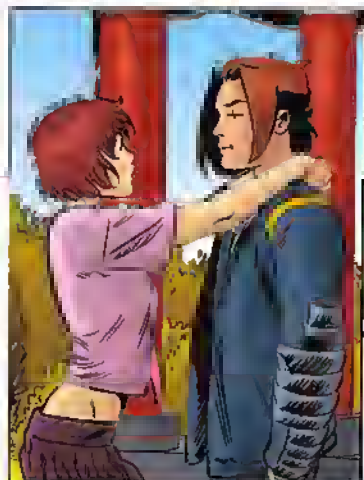
CAREFUL, HE MIGHT SEE YOU!

CLOSE THE WINDOW!



NOT A CHANCE! I DEMAND A FRONT ROW SEAT FOR MY ULTIMATE REVENGE!

I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT.



OH MY GOD! I FRICKIN' KNEW IT!

?!



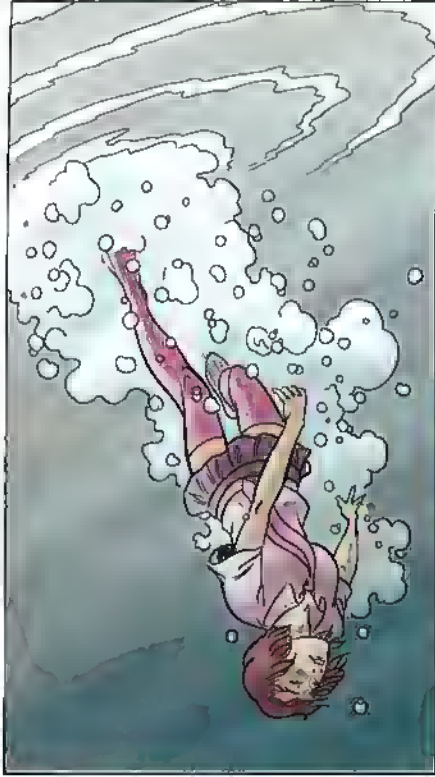
SHE'S GOING TO RUIN EVERYTHING!

WHO IS THAT?

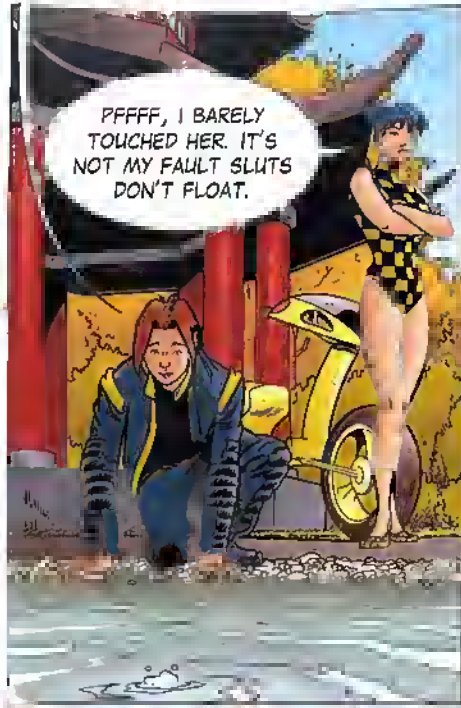
MY WIFE!



YOU BITCH! GET THE FUCK OFF MY MAN!

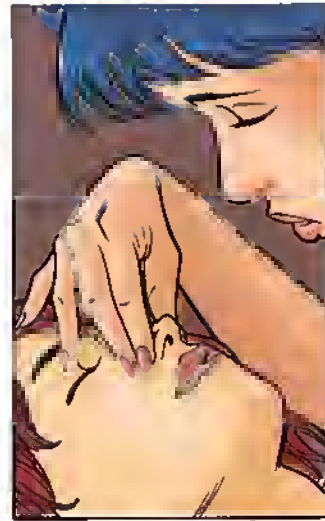
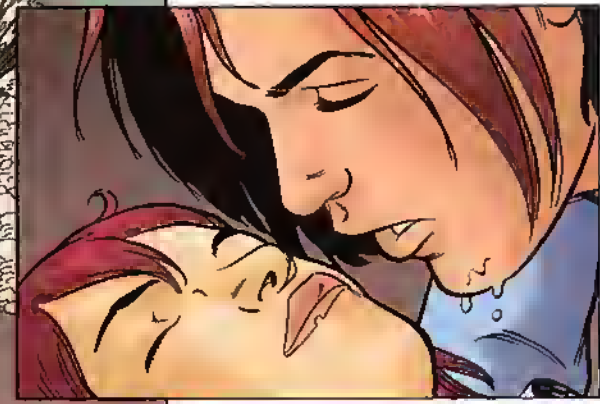
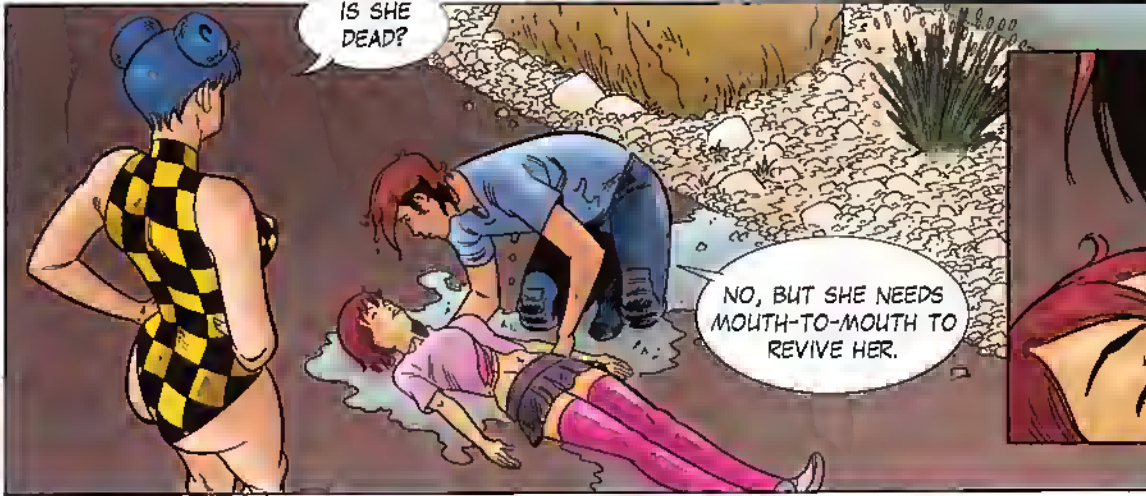


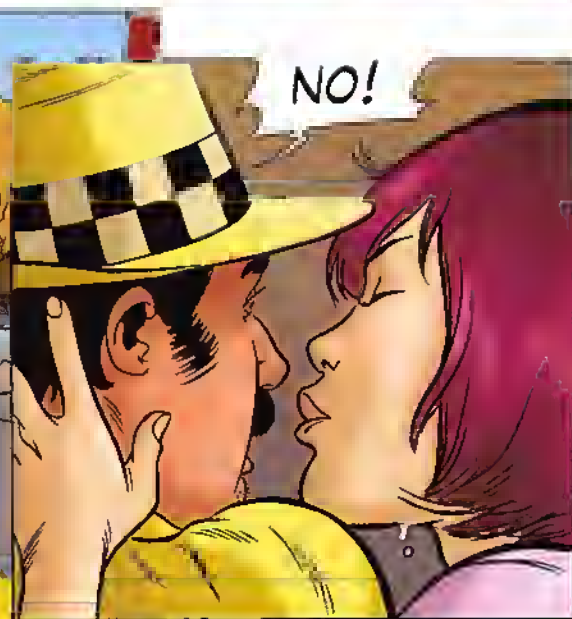
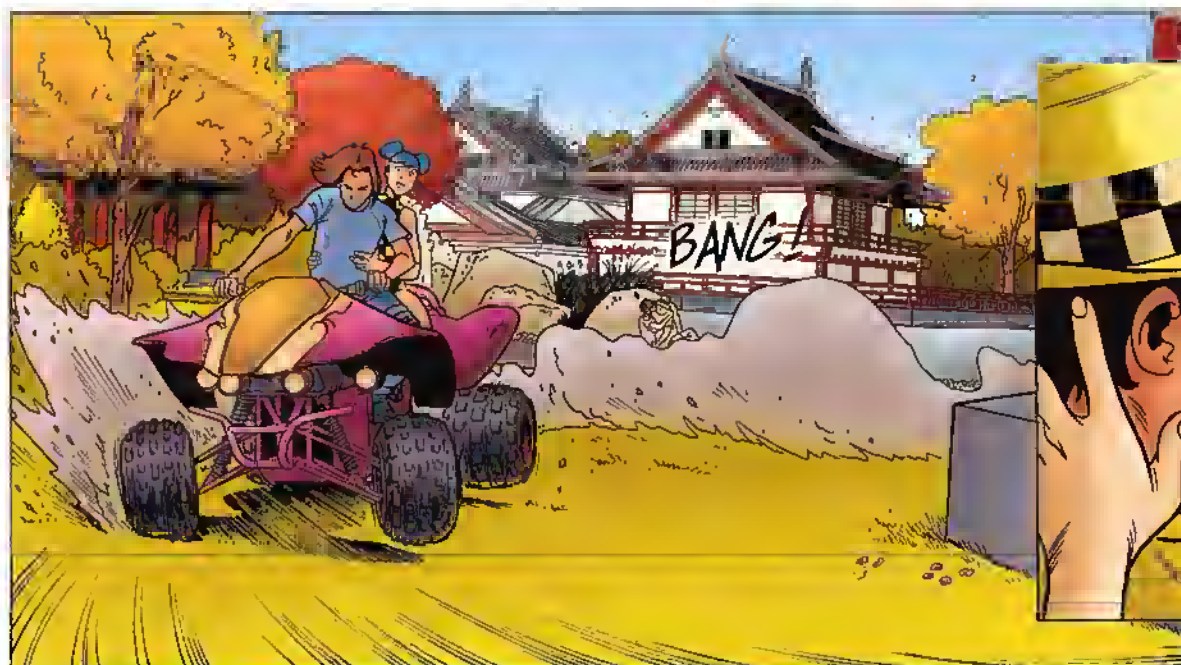
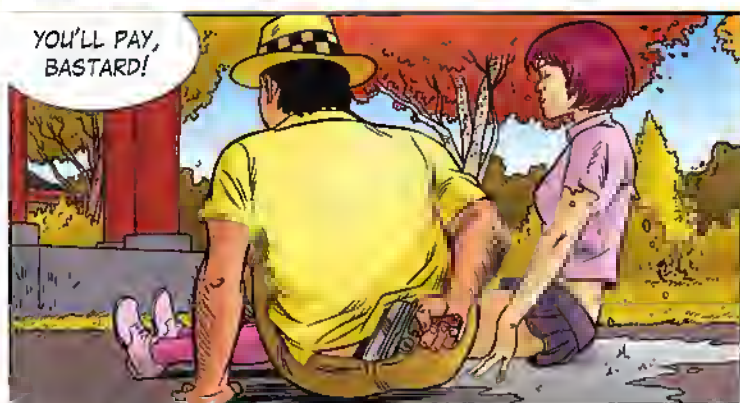
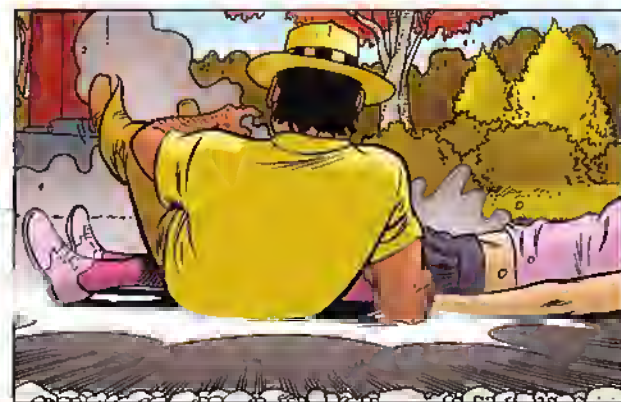
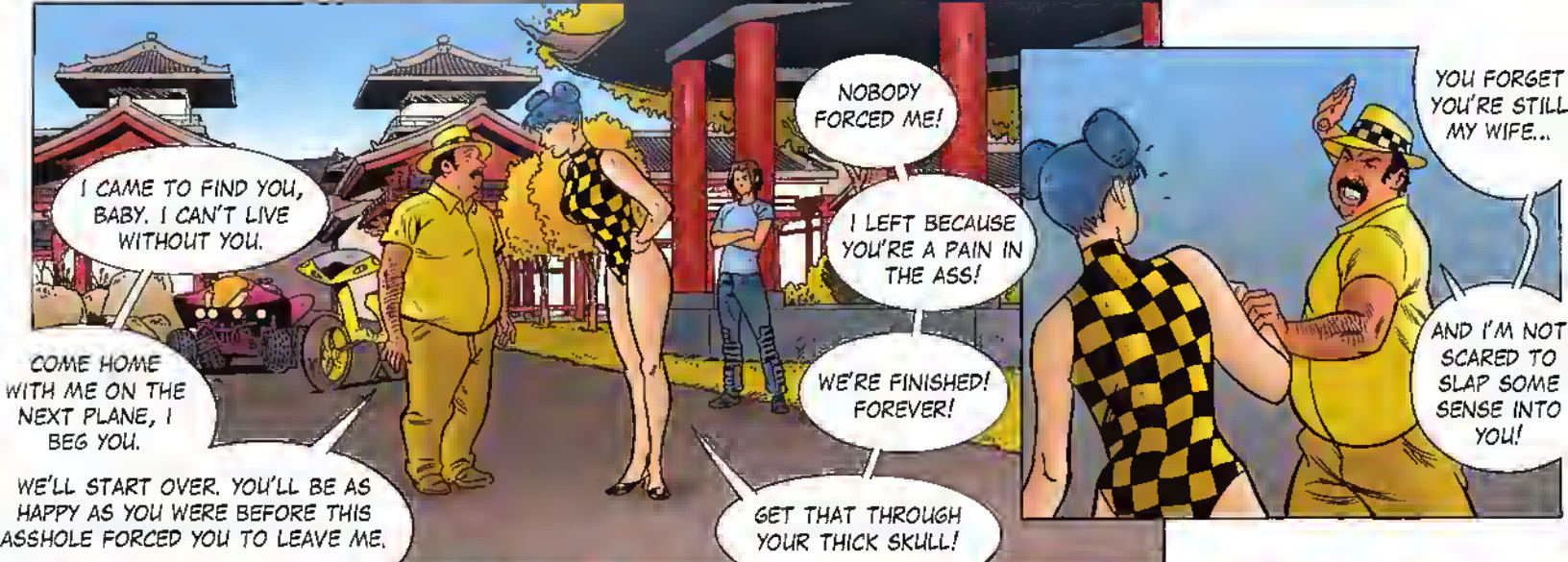
SHE SANK LIKE A ROCK! HOLLY, ARE YOU CRAZY? I THINK YOU KNOCKED HER OUT!

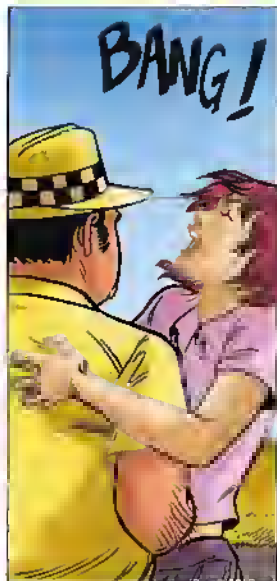


ARE YOU COMING? STIRLING SENT ME TO FIND YOU. HE HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU SO, LIKE, LET'S GO.



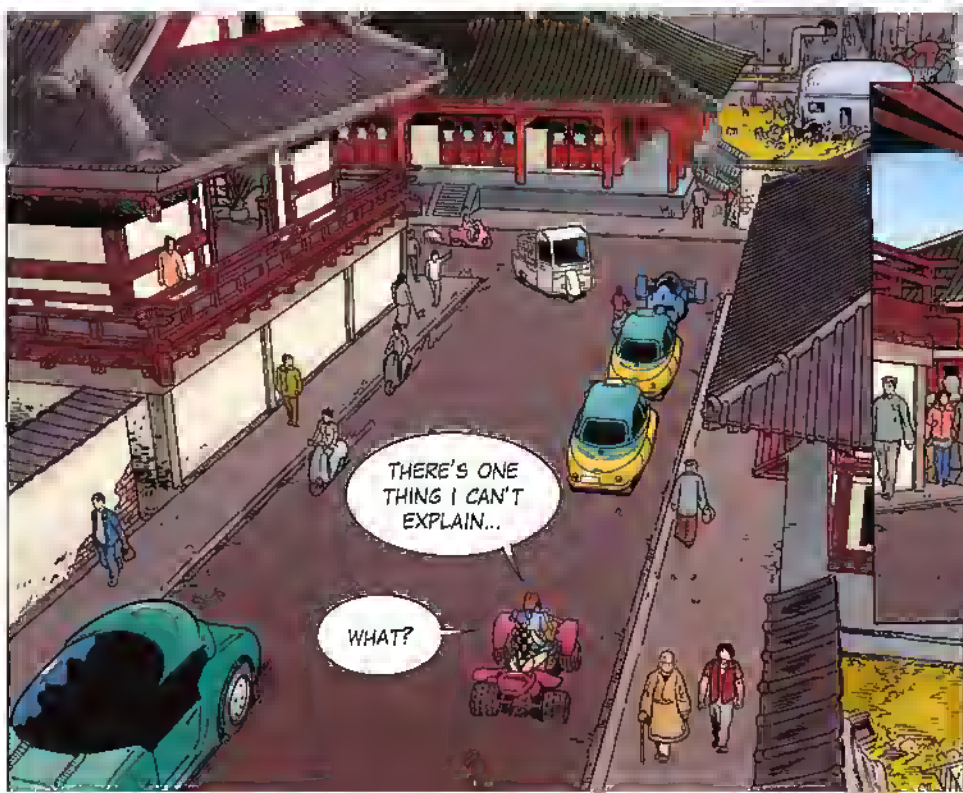
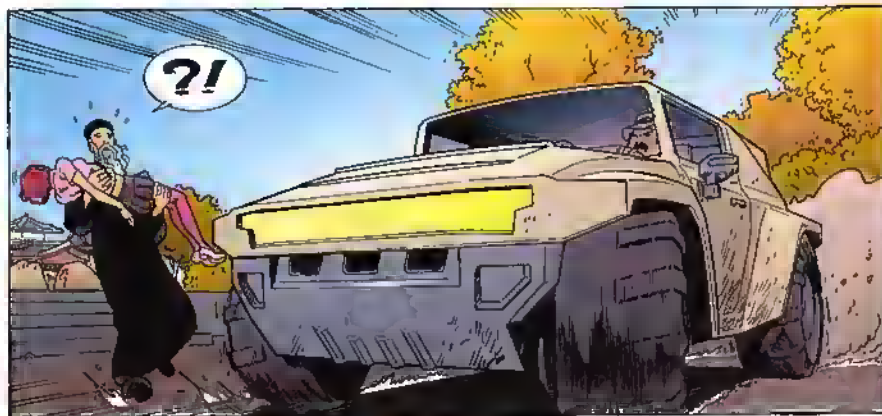


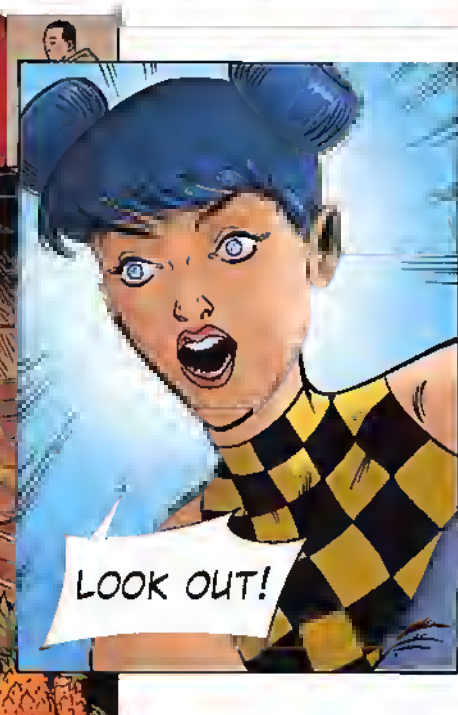
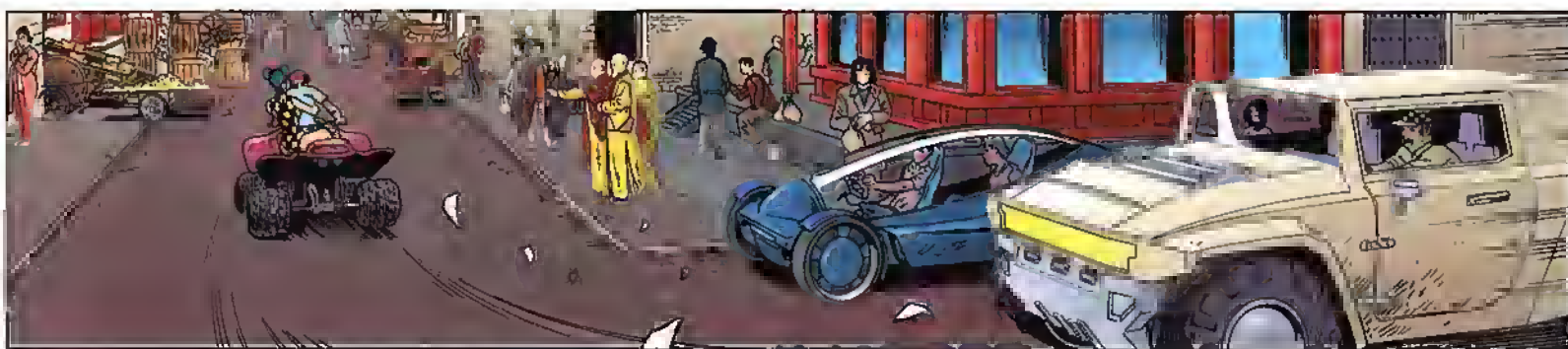
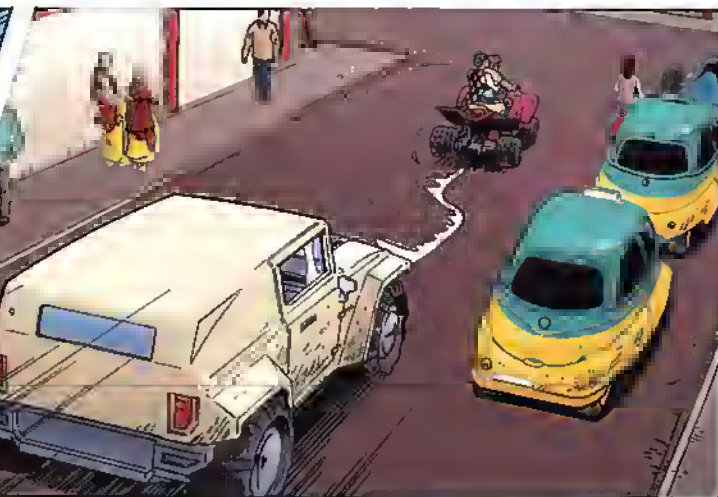
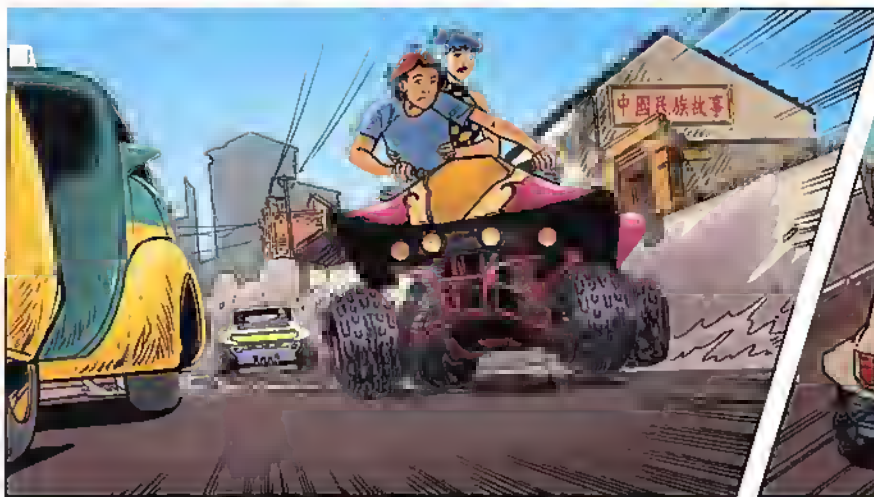


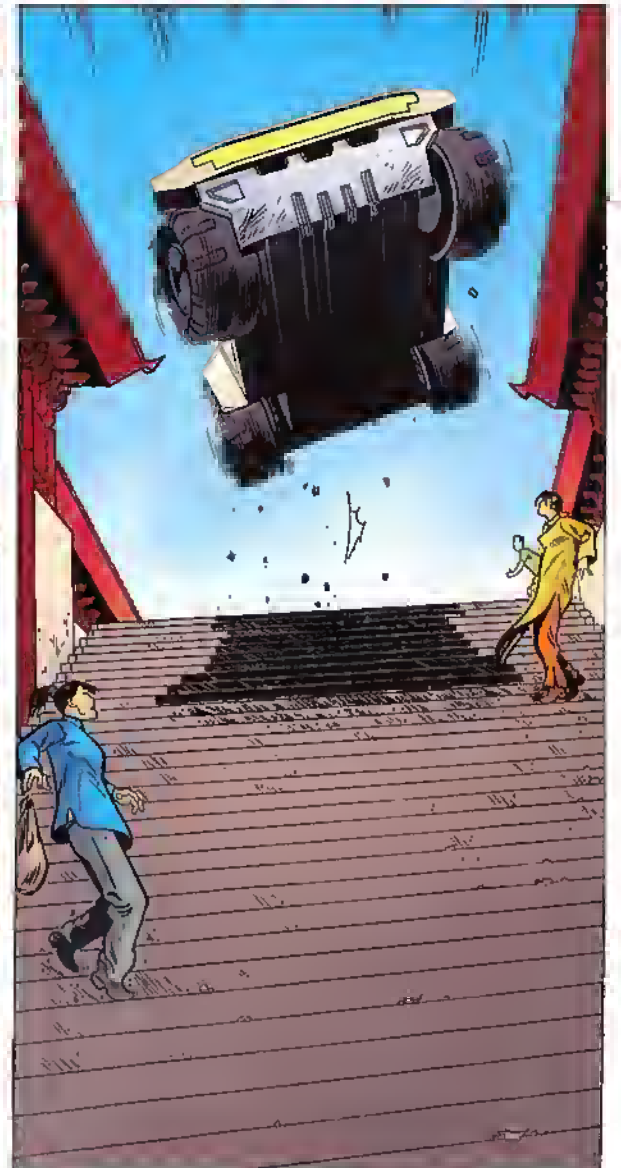
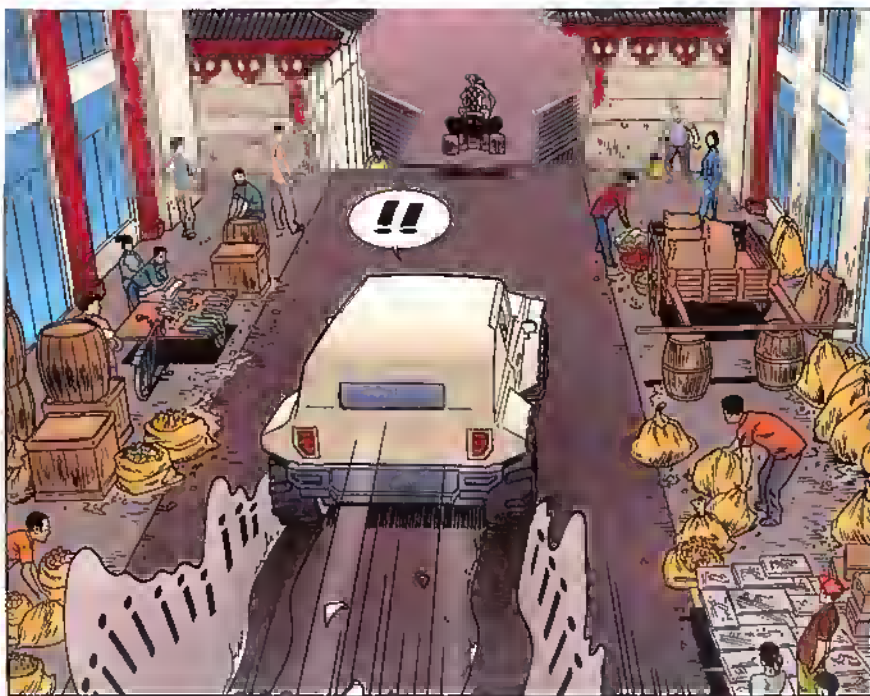
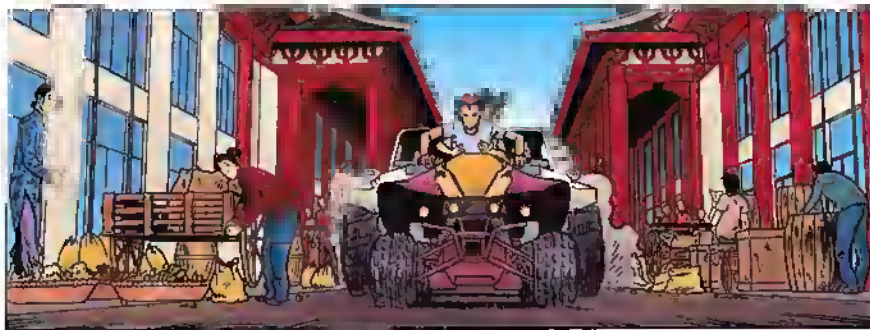
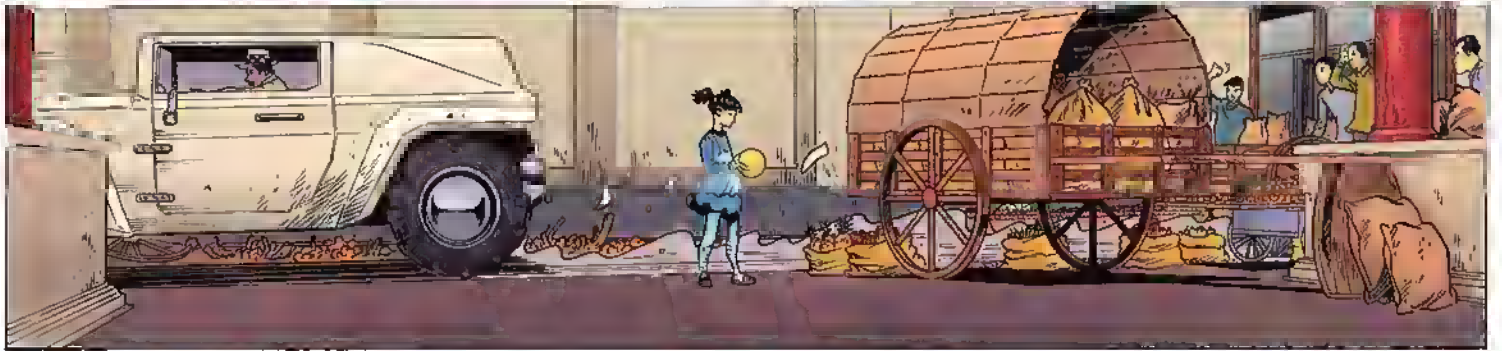
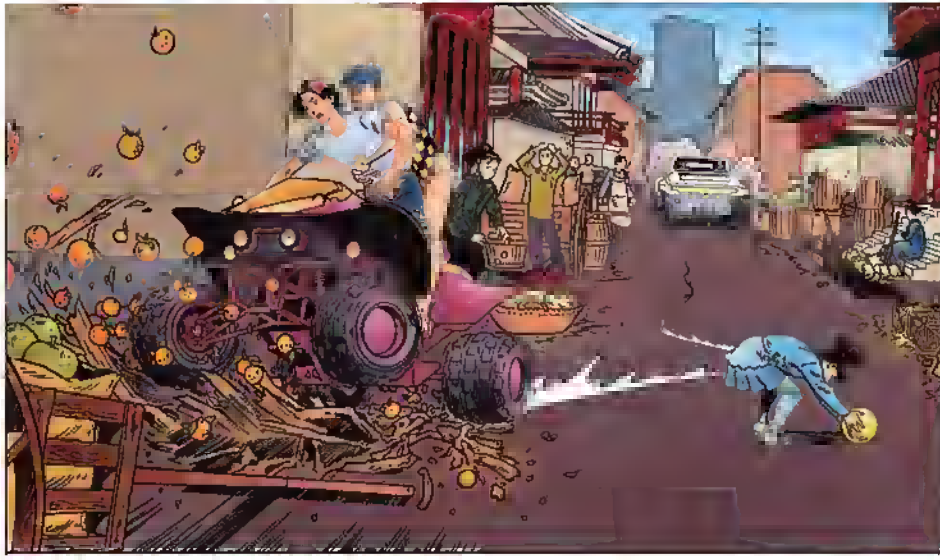


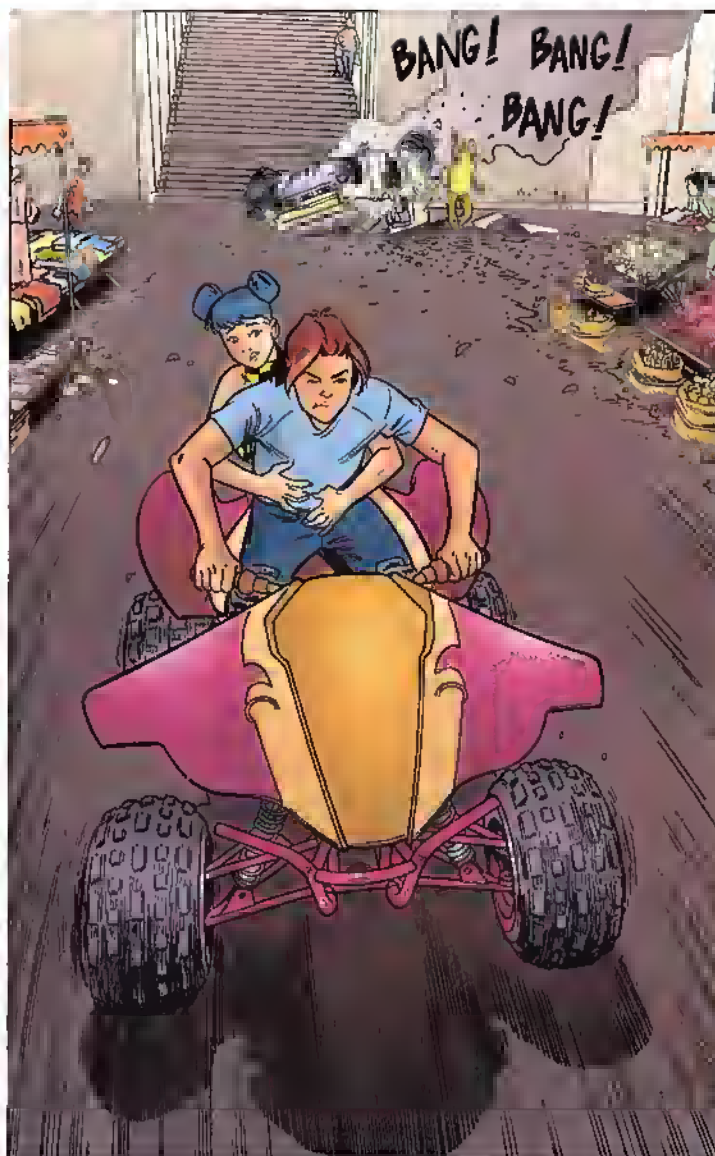
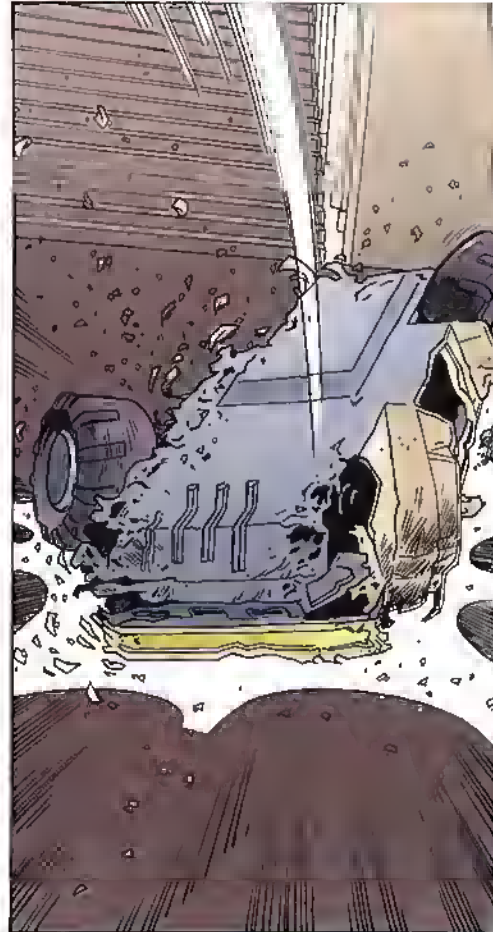
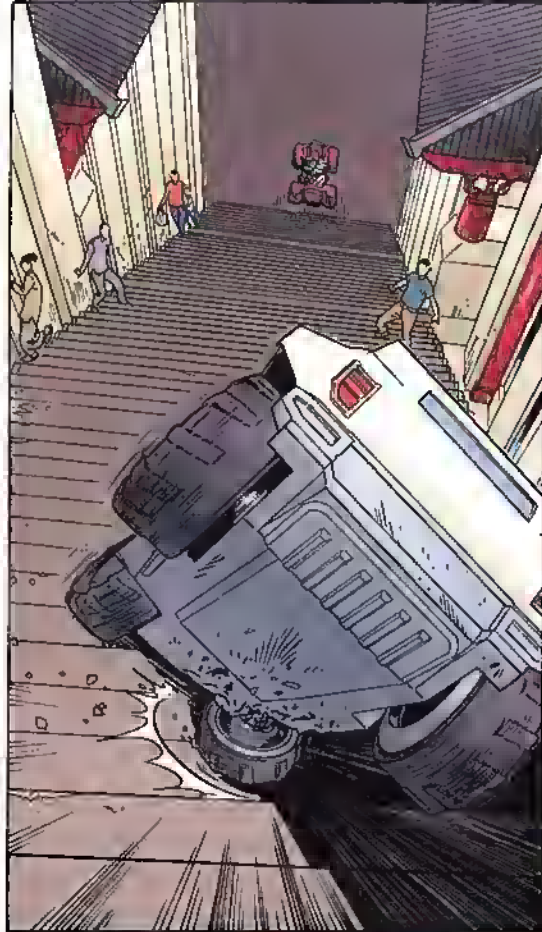
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
LUCKILY I HAD YOUR GUN OR I'D BE FINISHED!
WHY DID IT TRY TO KISS ME?

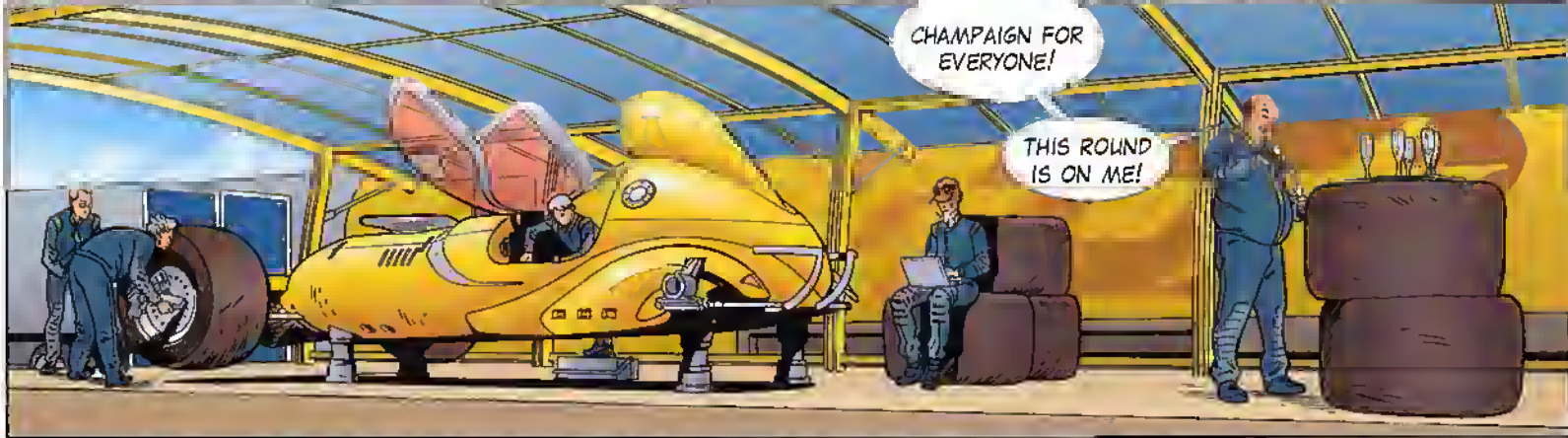
...AND HE'S HAD THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
HE WON'T GET AWAY, I TELL YOU!





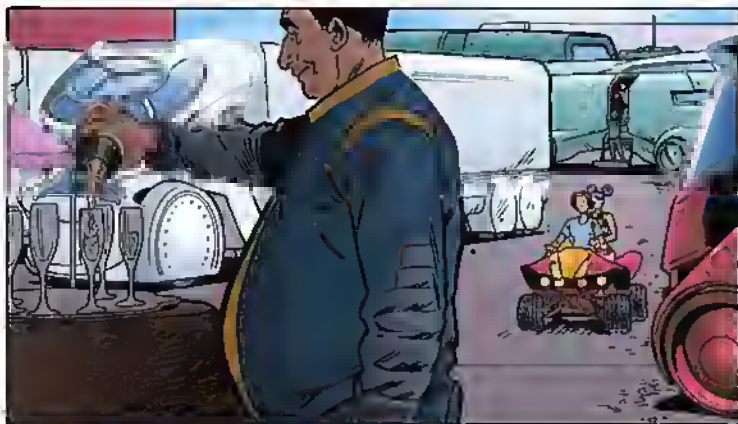






CHAMPAGNE FOR EVERYONE!

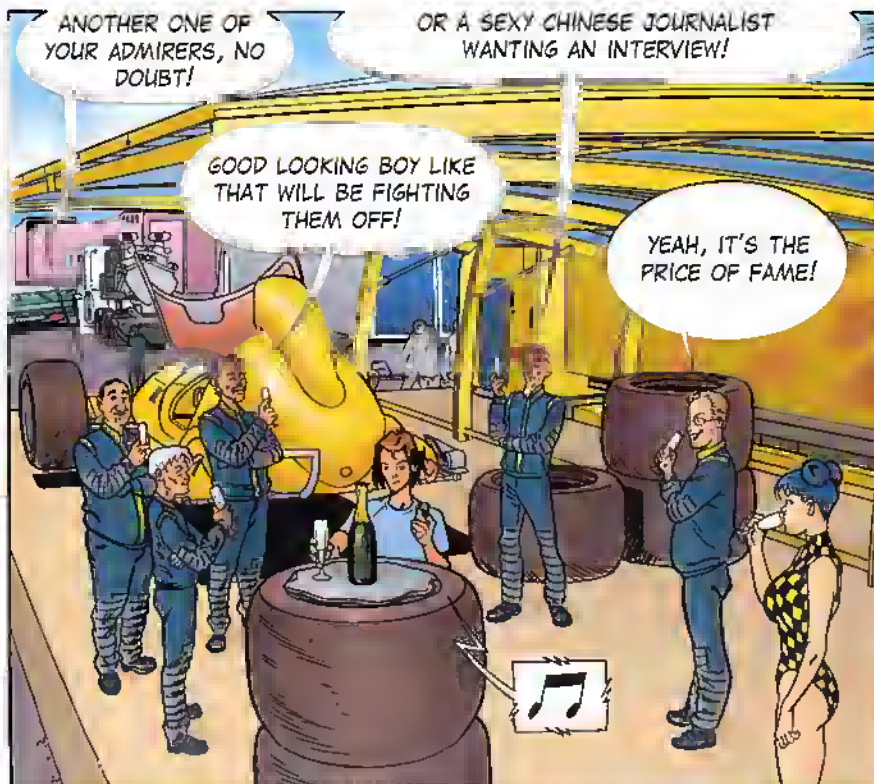
THIS ROUND IS ON ME!



YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, KID! I WAS ABOUT TO RAISE A TOAST TO YOU AND STIRLING ON YOUR STAGE WIN!



BRAVO, YOU TWO!



ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR ADMIRERS, NO DOUBT!

OR A SEXY CHINESE JOURNALIST WANTING AN INTERVIEW!

GOOD LOOKING BOY LIKE THAT WILL BE FIGHTING THEM OFF!

YEAH, IT'S THE PRICE OF FAME!



HELLO?... OH, HELLO DOUDINKA!... NO, YOU'RE NOT BOTHERING ME. ON THE CONTRARY... WHAT?... THAT'S GREAT! I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!

THANKS FOR CALLING WITH THE GOOD NEWS... OKAY... CALL ME ANYTIME! KISSES!



WHAT DOES THE ESKIMO WANT WITH YOU?

DON'T CALL HER THAT!

JEEZ, I WAS ONLY JOKING! WHAT DID SHE WANT?

SHE CALLED TO TELL ME THAT SHE'D BE AT THE FINISH LINE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

OH YEAH? THEN WHY WERE YOU NAKED IN HER BED WHEN STIRLING PHONED?

BECAUSE MY CLOTHES WERE SOAKED AND SHE PUT THEM OUT TO DRY.

I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES.

IT'S A LONG WAY TO TRAVEL BY DOGSLED JUST TO SEE YOU.

SHE'S QUITE IN LOVE WITH YOU.

NO, WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.

LIAR!

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SLEEPING WITH HER!

AND YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO WORSE TO THAT PINK-HAIRED CHINK!

IF I HADN'T FOLLOWED YOU, YOU'D BE BALLS DEEP RIGHT NOW!

HA! HA! HA!

FOLLOWED ME?

SHE TOLD ME STIRLING SENT HER TO FIND ME...

ME?

NO WAY!

I DIDN'T SEND HER ANYWHERE.

OH, REALLY? WHY WOULD SHE LIE?

JEALOUSY, I IMAGINE. SEEING YOU WITH THAT CUTE CHINESE JOURNALIST WAS UNBEARABLE...

SO SHE INVENTED A REASON TO BRING YOU BACK HERE.

I HATE TO RUSH YOU, MY FRIENDS, BUT THE RACE BRIEFING STARTS IN FIVE MINUTES.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HURRY.

HE'S RIGHT, WE CAN'T MISS IT.

THE ORGANIZERS ARE FINALLY GOING TO UNVEIL THE ROUTE FOR THE NEXT TWO STAGES.

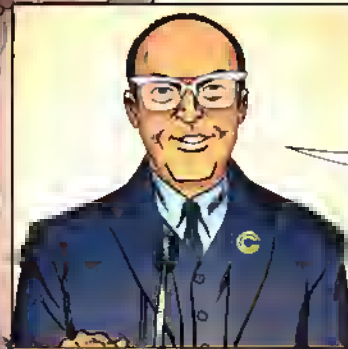
I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE IT TOO.

THE GOLDEN CUP ISN'T JUST A
UNIQUE RACE. IT'S FIRST AND
FOREMOST AN EXTRAORDINARY
HUMAN ADVENTURE.

A THOUSAND
COMPETITORS STARTED
LAST MONTH IN SOUTH
AMERICA...

SEVEN HUNDRED
HAVE ALREADY
RETIRED ALONG
THE ROUTE...

WHICH PROVES
THE INCREDIBLE
DIFFICULTY OF
THE COURSE.



ON BEHALF OF THE
ORGANIZERS I'D LIKE
TO CONGRATULATE
THE REMAINING
CREWS, FROM FIRST
TO LAST. BEING HERE
IS AN ACHIEVEMENT,
AND YOU DESERVE A
ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

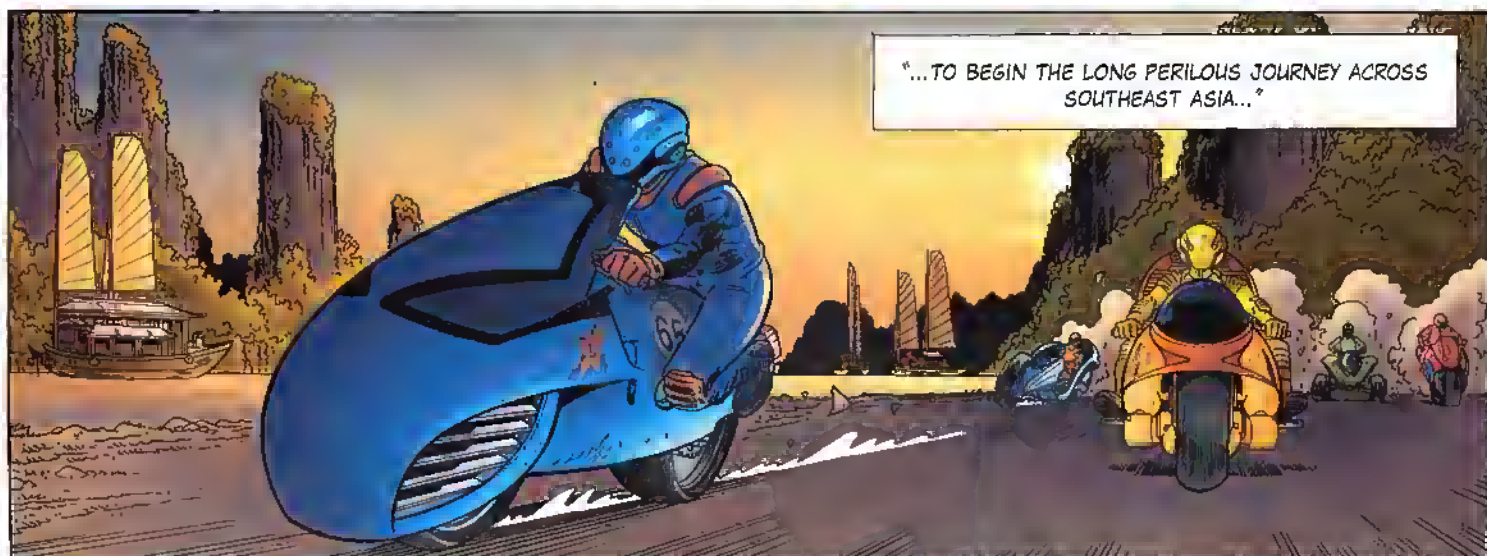


BUT THE CHALLENGE
ISN'T OVER! ON THE
CONTRARY...

THE NEXT TWO STAGES,
WHICH YOU CAN SEE ON
THIS SCREEN, WILL BE
DANGEROUS FOR BOTH
MEN AND MACHINES.

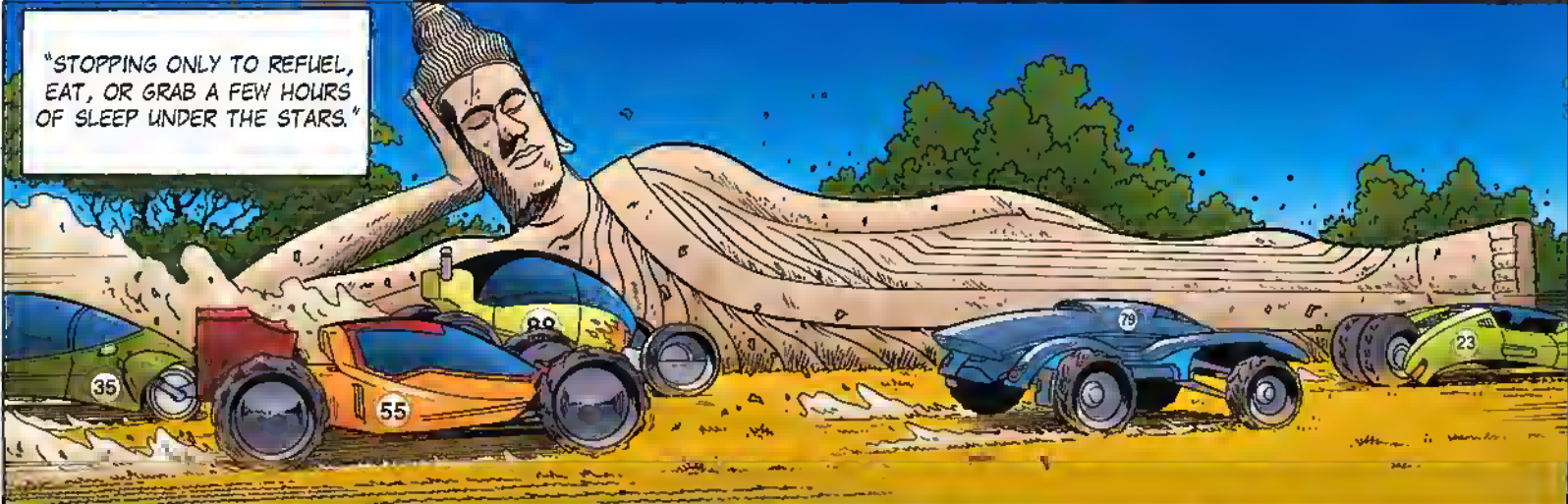


"TOMORROW AT DAWN,
THE TEAMS WILL SET OFF
FROM BEIJING..."

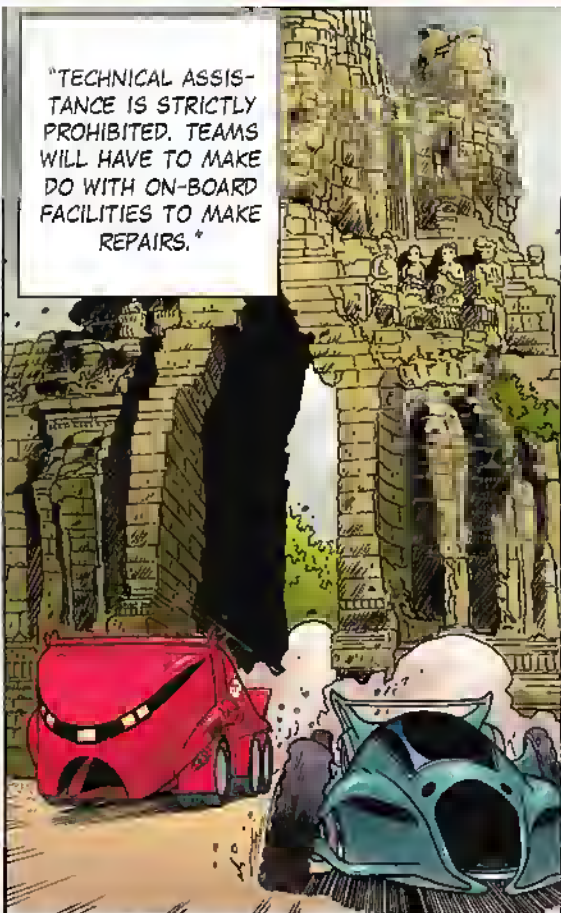


"...TO BEGIN THE LONG PERILOUS JOURNEY ACROSS
SOUTHEAST ASIA..."

"STOPPING ONLY TO REFUEL,
EAT, OR GRAB A FEW HOURS
OF SLEEP UNDER THE STARS."



"TECHNICAL ASSIS-
TANCE IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED. TEAMS
WILL HAVE TO MAKE
DO WITH ON-BOARD
FACILITIES TO MAKE
REPAIRS."

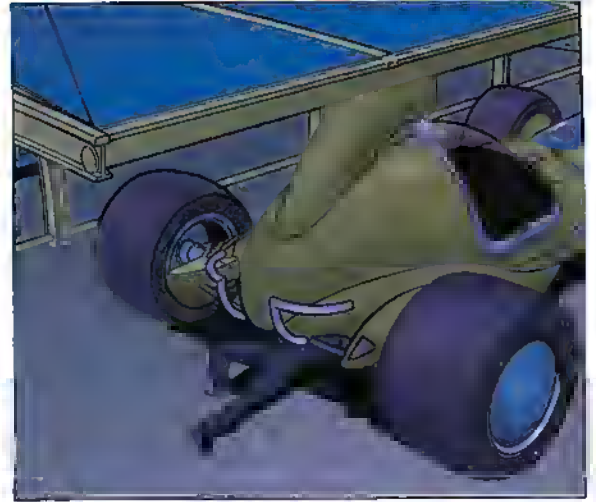
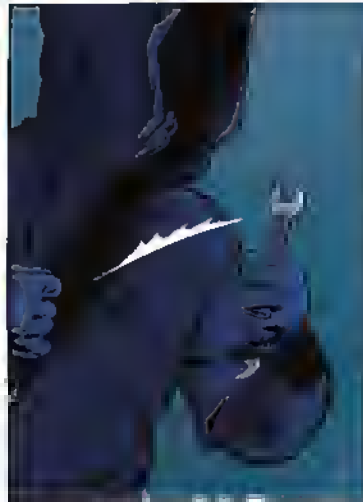


"AFTER CROSSING
VIETNAM, LAOS
AND CAMBODIA IN
TURN..."

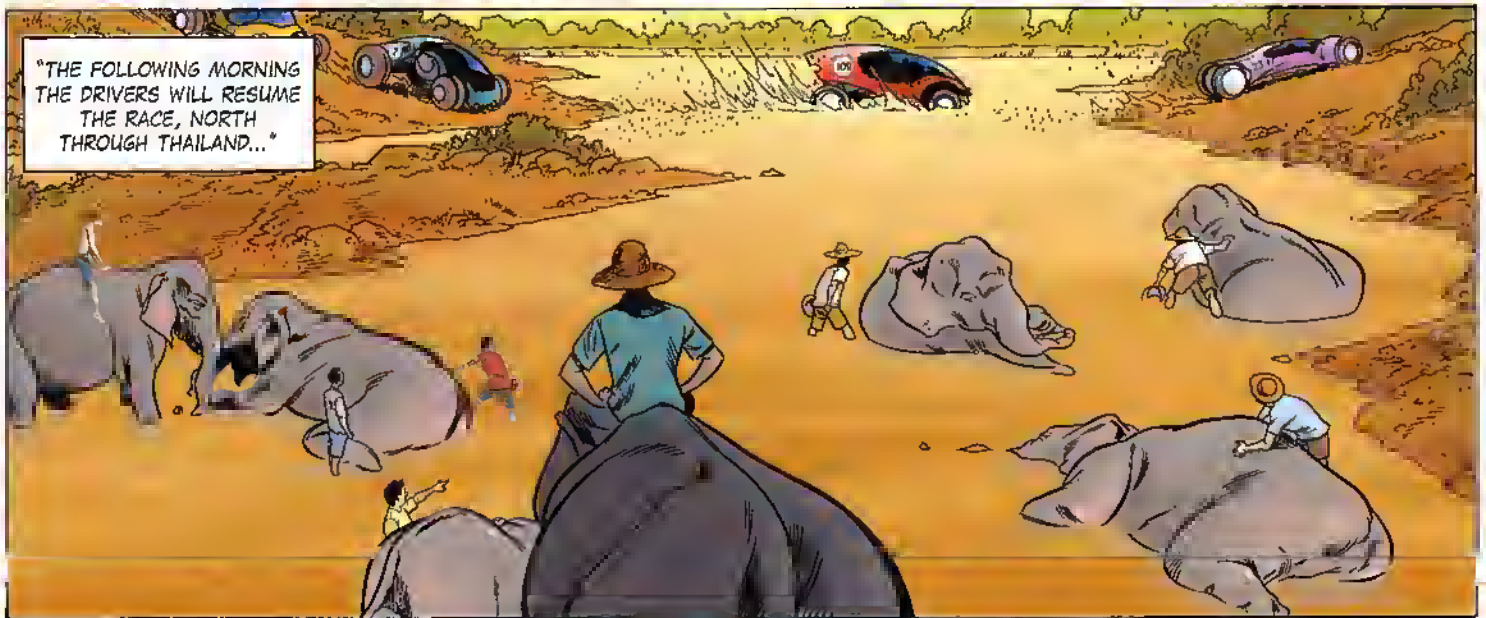


"...THEY'LL ARRIVE IN BANGKOK
FOR A WELL DESERVED NIGHT'S
REST."

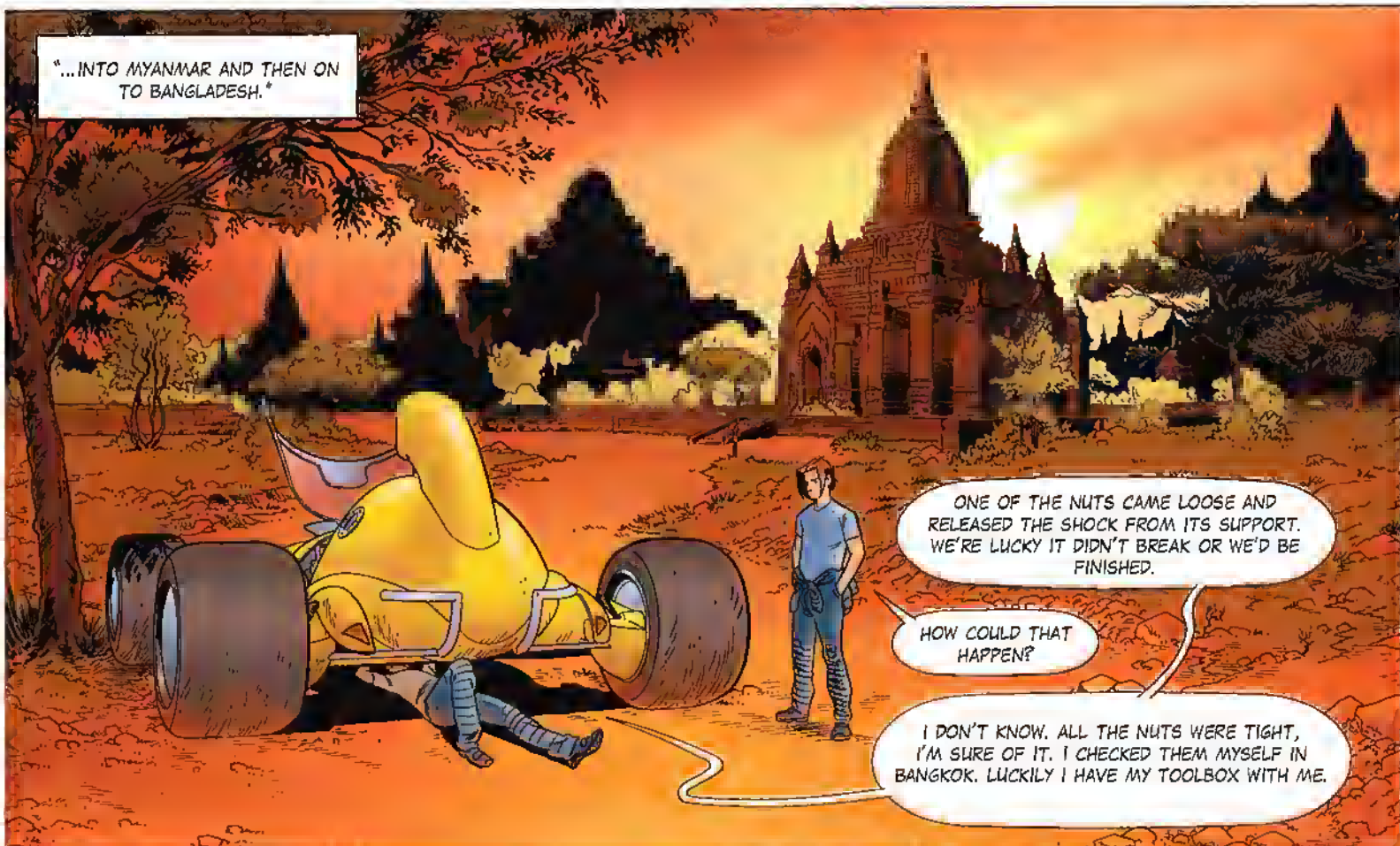




"THE FOLLOWING MORNING
THE DRIVERS WILL RESUME
THE RACE, NORTH
THROUGH THAILAND..."



"...INTO MYANMAR AND THEN ON
TO BANGLADESH."

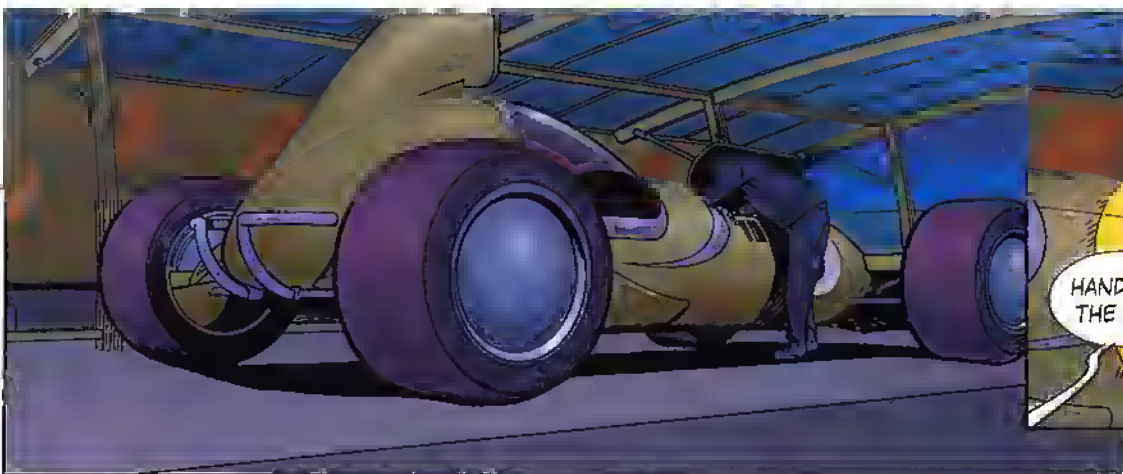
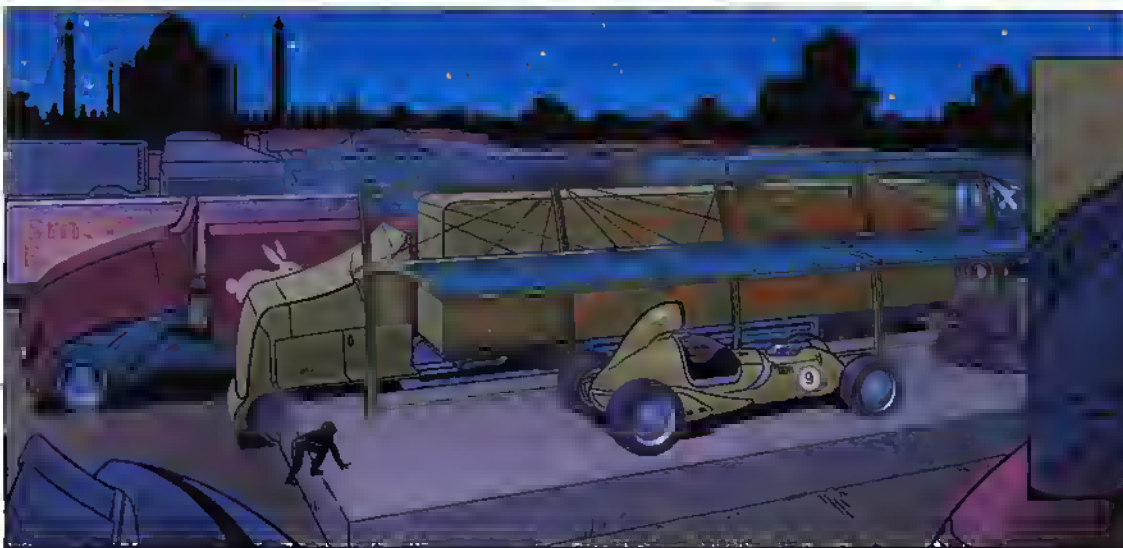
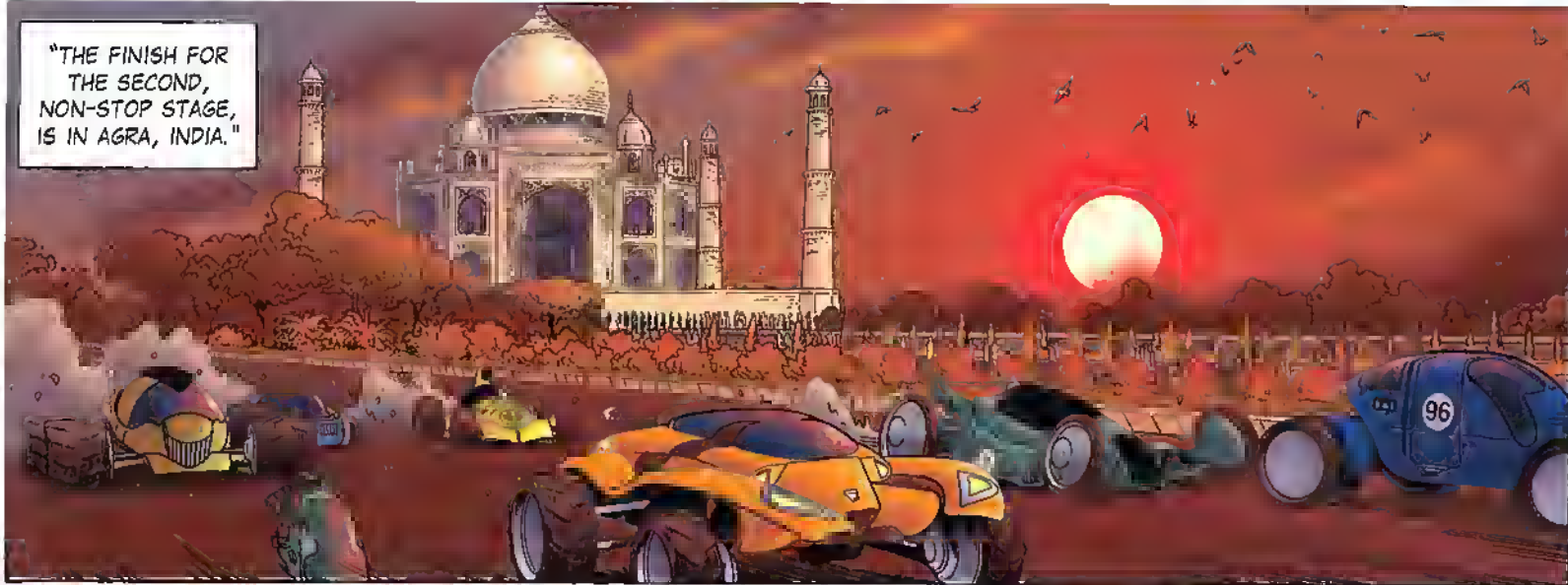


ONE OF THE NUTS CAME LOOSE AND
RELEASED THE SHOCK FROM ITS SUPPORT.
WE'RE LUCKY IT DIDN'T BREAK OR WE'D BE
FINISHED.

HOW COULD THAT
HAPPEN?

I DON'T KNOW. ALL THE NUTS WERE TIGHT,
I'M SURE OF IT. I CHECKED THEM MYSELF IN
BANGKOK. LUCKILY I HAVE MY TOOLBOX WITH ME.

"THE FINISH FOR
THE SECOND,
NON-STOP STAGE,
IS IN AGRA, INDIA."

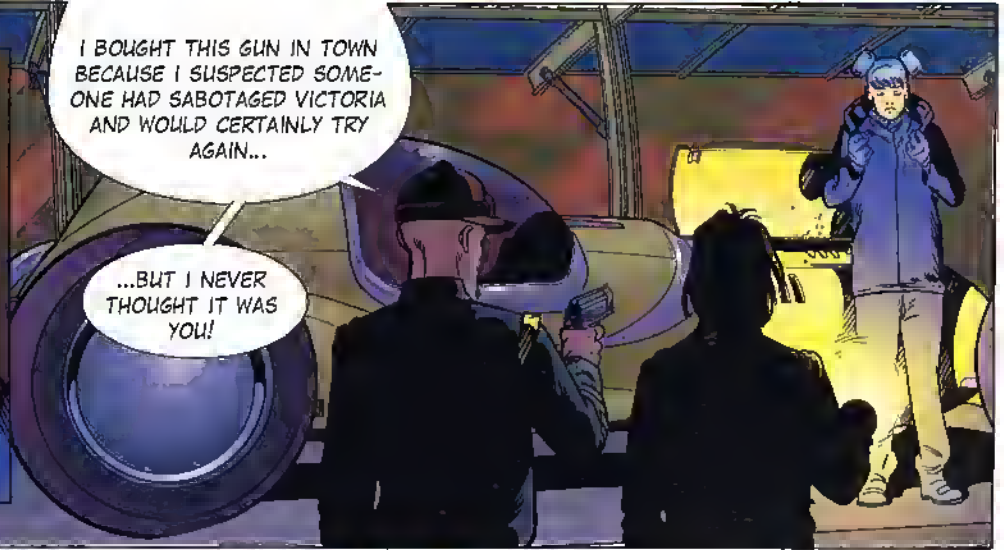




H...HOLLY?!

I BOUGHT THIS GUN IN TOWN BECAUSE I SUSPECTED SOMEONE HAD SABOTAGED VICTORIA AND WOULD CERTAINLY TRY AGAIN...

...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS YOU!



YOU SABOTAGED OUR SUSPENSION IN BANGKOK, IS THAT RIGHT? AND WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? THE ENGINE? THE BRAKES? WHO'S PAYING YOU TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK? ONE OF THE FACTORY TEAMS?

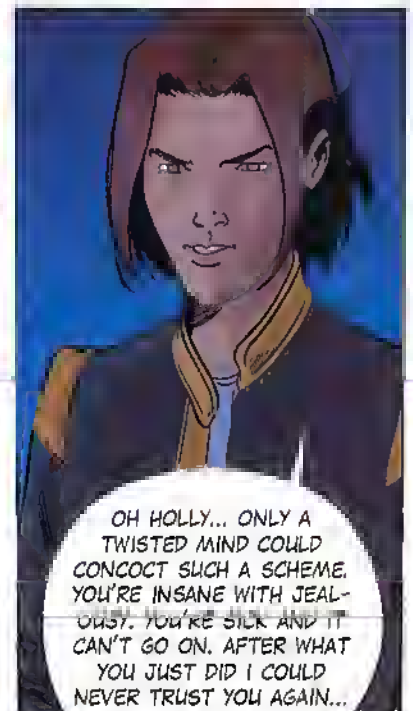
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!



TELL ME THEN...



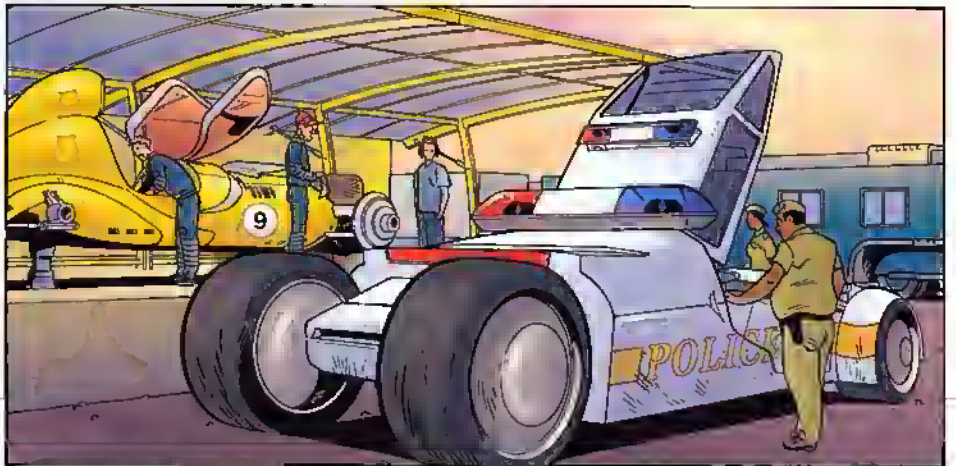
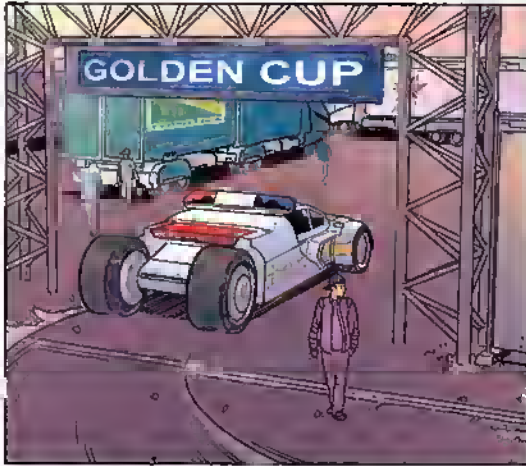
I JUST WANTED YOU TO RETIRE FROM THE RACE. SO YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO SOUTH AFRICA WHERE DOUDINKA IS WAITING FOR YOU.



OH HOLLY... ONLY A TWISTED MIND COULD CONCOCT SUCH A SCHEME. YOU'RE INSANE WITH JEALOUSY. YOU'RE SICK AND IT CAN'T GO ON. AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID I COULD NEVER TRUST YOU AGAIN...

I CAN'T LIVE IN FEAR OF SABOTAGE, SO IT'S BETTER THAT YOU LEAVE. YOU AND I... IT'S FINISHED. PACK YOUR SUITCASE AND GO.



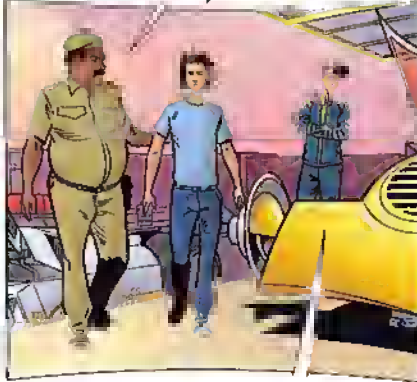


POLICE!... PLEASE COME WITH US.

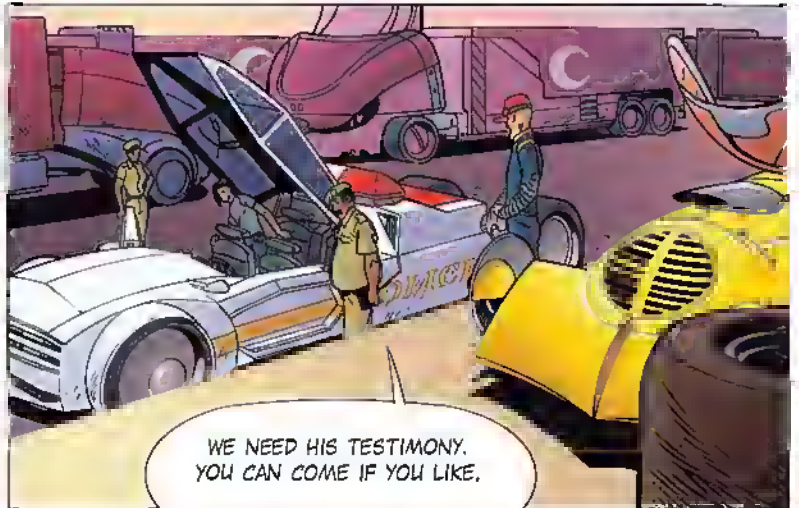
WE'LL EXPLAIN EN ROUTE, SIR. RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE...



ME? WHY?



HEY! JUST A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING MY DRIVER?



WE NEED HIS TESTIMONY. YOU CAN COME IF YOU LIKE.



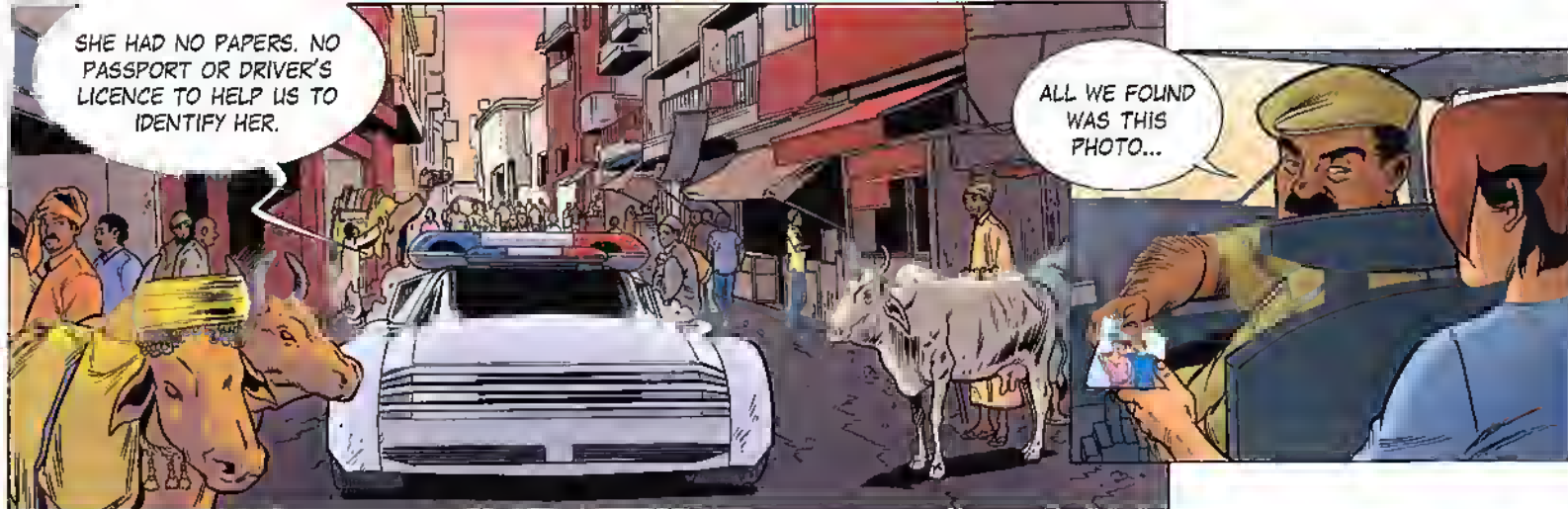
THIS MORNING, WHILE PLAYING IN A VACANT LOT, SOME KIDS FOUND THE BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN. WE WERE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED.



THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD, BUT SHE WAS JUST UNCONSCIOUS FROM A SEVERE BEATING.

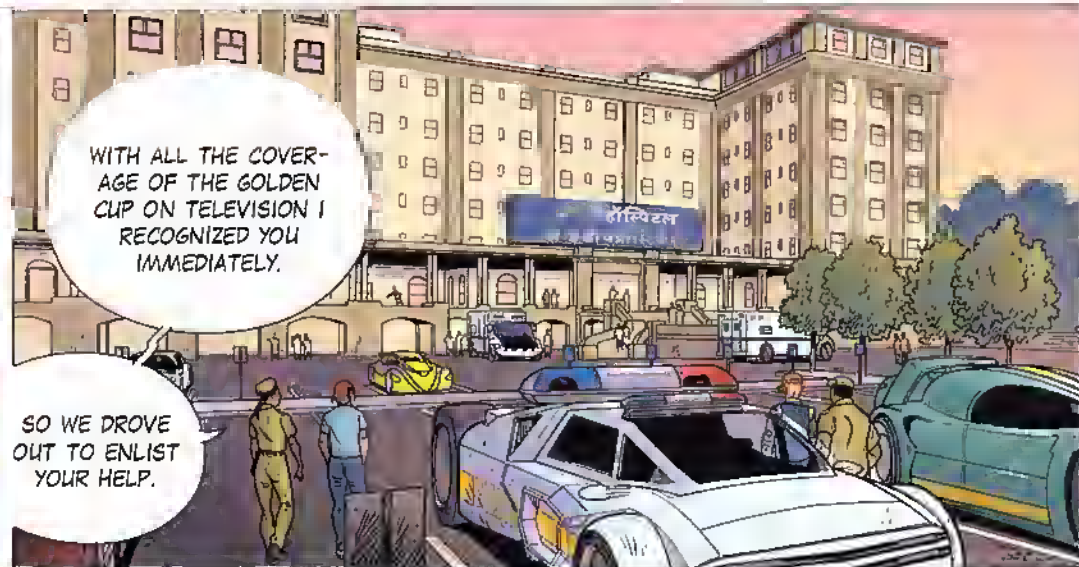
SHE HAD NO PAPERS. NO PASSPORT OR DRIVER'S LICENCE TO HELP US TO IDENTIFY HER.

ALL WE FOUND WAS THIS PHOTO...



WITH ALL THE COVERAGE OF THE GOLDEN CUP ON TELEVISION I RECOGNIZED YOU IMMEDIATELY.

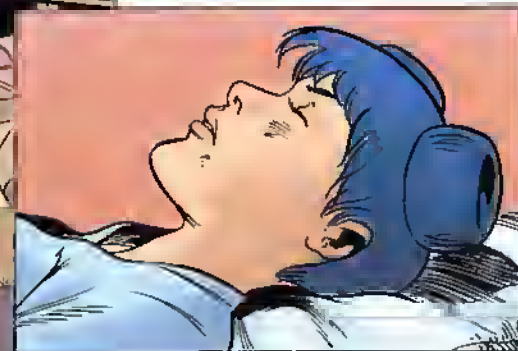
SO WE DROVE OUT TO ENLIST YOUR HELP.



YOU SEEM TO KNOW THIS YOUNG WOMAN. CAN YOU HELP US IDENTIFY HER?

WHAT'S HER NAME?

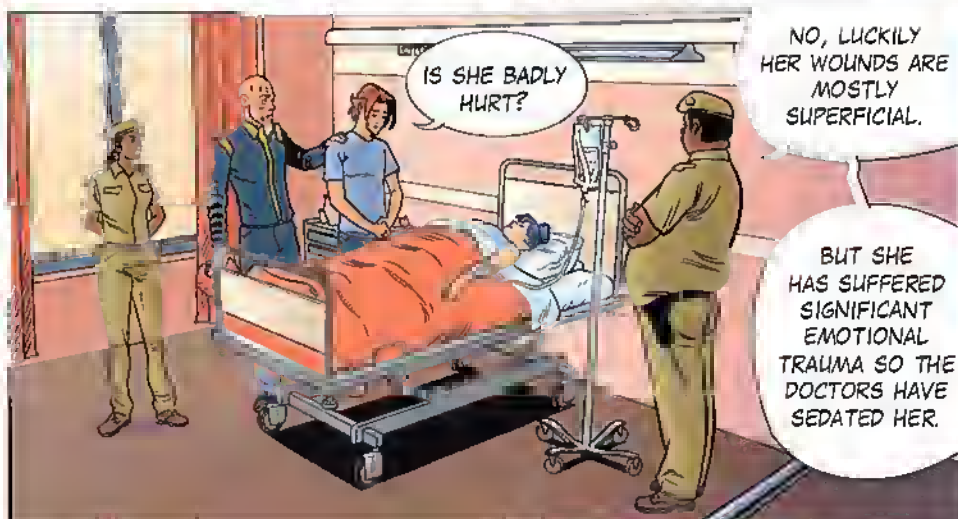
HOLLY.



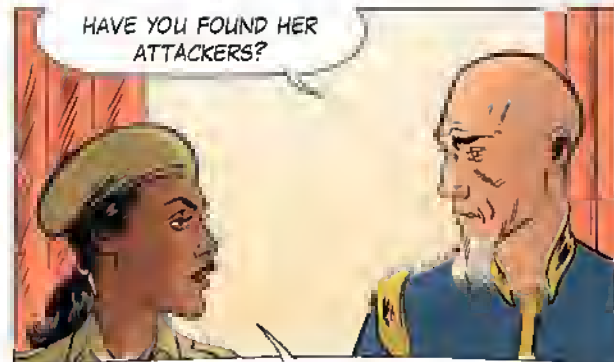
IS SHE BADLY HURT?

NO, LUCKILY HER WOUNDS ARE MOSTLY SUPERFICIAL.

BUT SHE HAS SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT EMOTIONAL TRAUMA SO THE DOCTORS HAVE SEDATED HER.



HAVE YOU FOUND HER ATTACKERS?



NOT YET, AND IT'S NOT LIKELY. FIRST, THERE WERE NO WITNESSES, AND SECOND, THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY ASSAULTS THAT HAPPENED IN THE CITY LAST NIGHT. WE BARELY HAVE TIME TO INVESTIGATE.

POOR HOLLY. IT'S ALL MY FAULT. IF I HADN'T KICKED HER OUT LAST NIGHT
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

YOU HEARD THE
POLICE. WE'LL
PROBABLY NEVER
KNOW.

WHO HURT
HER?

AND
WHY?!

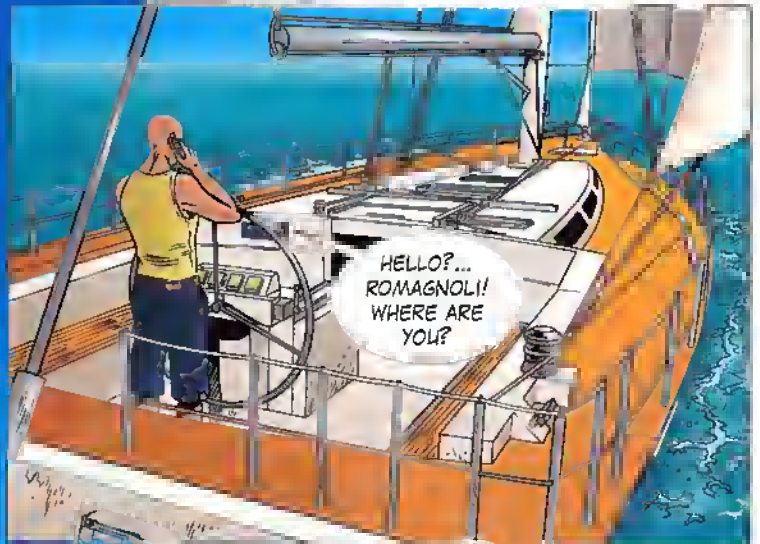
NO, NO... NONE OF THIS IS
YOUR FAULT.

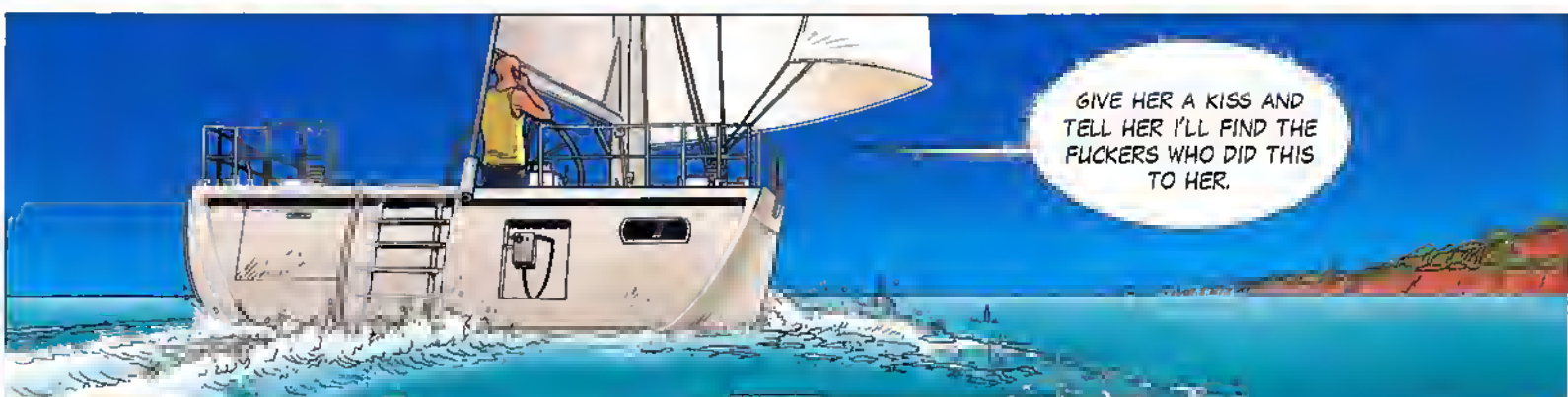
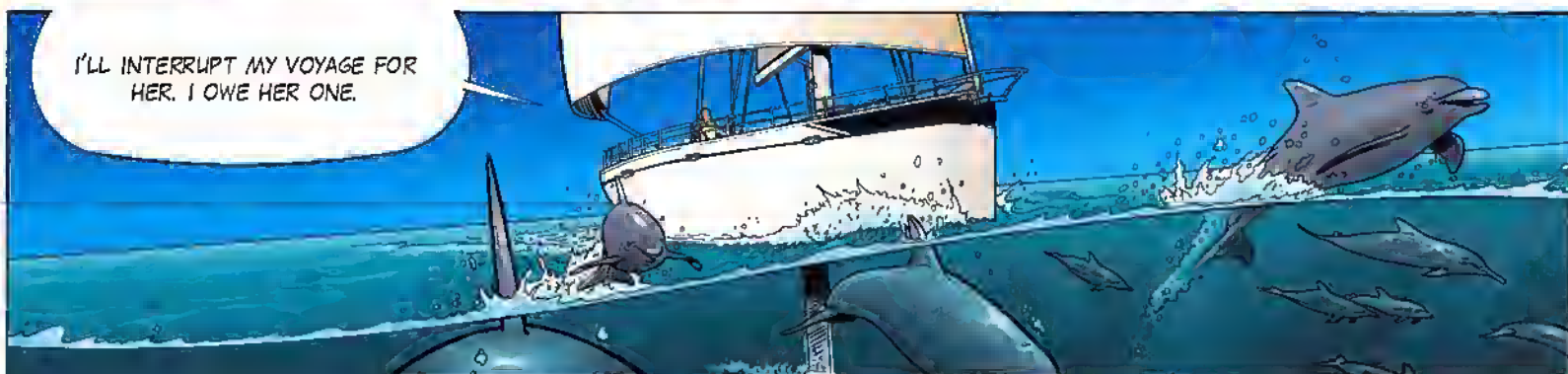
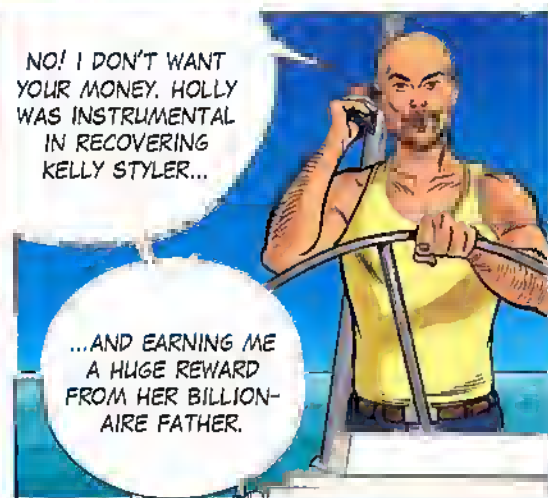
WHY? AREN'T THEY
INVESTIGATING?

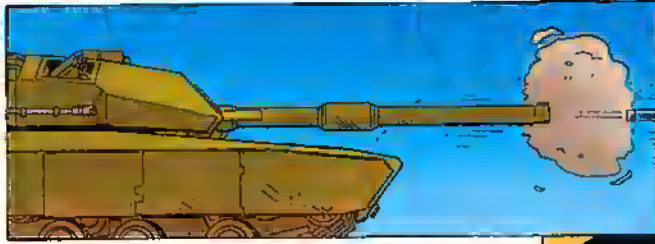
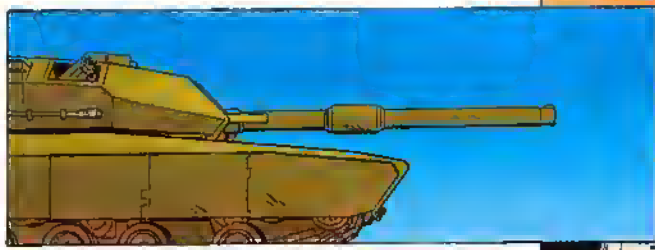
NO, APPARENTLY
THERE SO MANY
SEXUAL ASSAULTS
IN THE CITY THAT
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
TO INVESTIGATE
THEM ALL.

HOLLY
DESERVES
BETTER THAN
THAT.

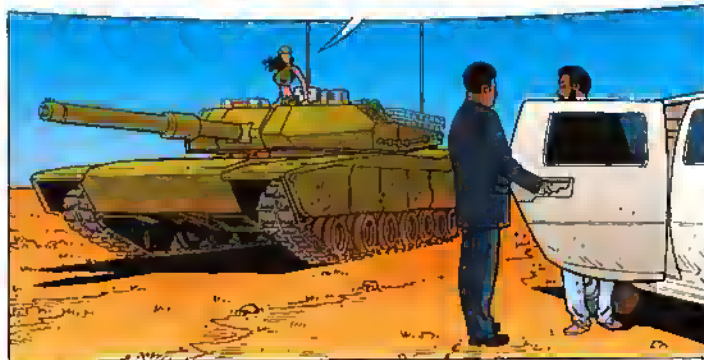
I'LL CALL MY
BUDDY, BORANO.
HE'S THE BEST
DETECTIVE ON
THE PLANET.







AS YOU CAN SEE IT'S STILL VERY ACCURATE. I HAVE SEVERAL LIKE IT, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. ALL TOTALLY OVERHAULED WITH A TWO YEAR WARRANTY ON PARTS AND LABOUR.



TAKE THE LOT AND I'LL GIVE YOU A 20% DISCOUNT.



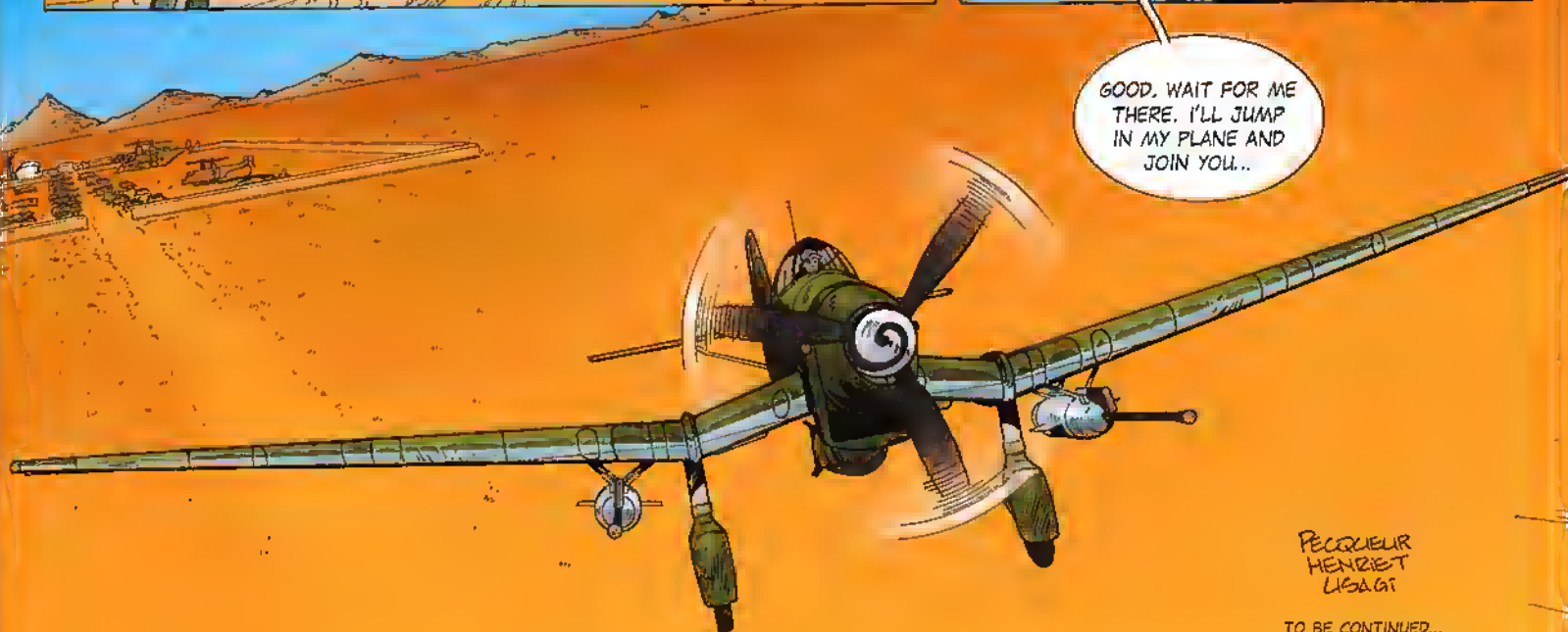
OKAY... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, AND CALL YOU WHEN I'VE MADE MY DECISION.



HELLO?... AH, CARUSO! IS IT DONE YET?... STILL NOT? YOU REALLY SUCK. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE THINGS IN HAND, OTHERWISE YOU'LL BE AT THIS FOREVER. WHERE ARE YOU?



GOOD. WAIT FOR ME THERE. I'LL JUMP IN MY PLANE AND JOIN YOU..



PECQUEUR
HENRIET
USAGI

TO BE CONTINUED...

GOLDEN CUP

CHARACTERS

Daytona: This wizard behind the wheel has always dreamed of becoming a racing driver and champion.

Stirling Sullivan: A passionate and kindly old-mechanic who designed his own race car to compete in the Golden Cup.

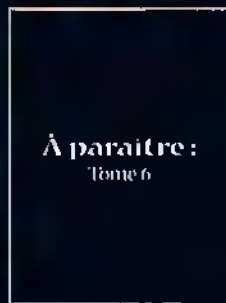
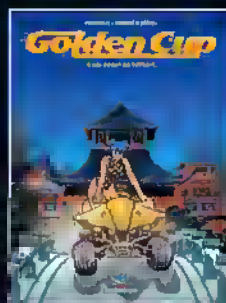
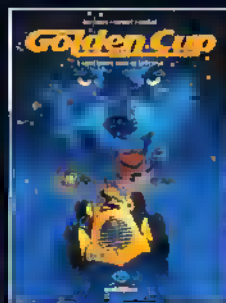
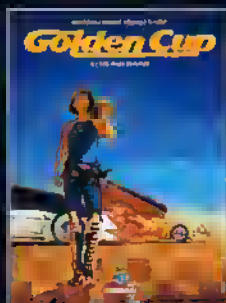
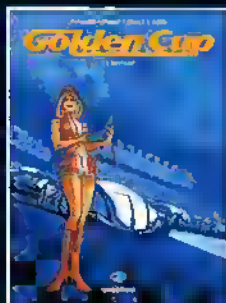
Holly: Daytona's love interest. She guards him jealously and will let no other girl approach.

Brenda: A powerful and sexy woman of questionable morals who's driving a bomb around the world.

THE STORY

After leaving South America, the Golden Cup competitors have raced through the United States, Canada, Alaska, the Bering Strait and Russia before reaching China. Of the thousand crews that started, seven hundred have already abandoned the race. But the worst is yet to come for the survivors as they'll now face the dreaded Gobi desert!

FROM THE SAME SERIES AS:
GOLDEN CITY



À paraître :
Tome 6

